

Second Summer of Love

Film by Wu Tsang, Josh Blaaberg, Jeremy Deller

commissioned and produced by Gucci and Frieze

11.06 – 11.25.2018: Italian Première

Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato

From November the 6th to the 25th, the **Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci** will present the **Italian première** of the film exhibition *Second Summer of Love*, **commissioned and produced by Gucci and Frieze**, as a further event celebrating the 30 years anniversary of Centro Pecci. Since its opening as the first contemporary art institution created in Italy, Centro Pecci has been a center of cultural production, committed to artistic research in the wider sense of the term. From 1988 to the present, it has produced over 250 events, including exhibitions of art, design and fashion, as well as an insightful program of activities connected with literature, music, performance and theater.

Second Summer of Love is a series of artists' films that narrates another anniversary: 1988 – the year electronic music and youth culture exploded in the UK, later expanding into Europe and the US.

The roots of acid house and rave scenes – the way these revolutionized youth lifestyles and how they had a lasting impact on contemporary culture comparable to that of the counter-culture of the 1960s – provide inspiration for work by Jeremy Deller, while the scenes that preceded and influenced rave inspire the works by Wu Tsang and Josh Blaaberg.

Jenn Nkiru recently joined Jeremy Deller, Wu Tsang and Josh Blaaberg to create the fourth film of the series. The film, on Detroit and Berlin techno culture, will premiere at Frieze Los Angeles in February 2019.

THE MUSEUM IMAGINED. STORIES FROM THIRTY YEARS OF CENTRO PECCI

The exhibition *The Museum Imagined*, on view until June the 25th, reads the museum's history through an original itinerary of facts, statistical data, memories and artworks from the collection and from the exhibition history, curated by the new director Cristiana Perrella. More than a celebration, the exhibition is a tale where the reality of what happened alternate with an imaginative museum vision that reinterprets and configures past in light of the present sensibility, by projecting it in a possibile future. The exhibition is followed through a program of events – theatre, video, performance – including the *Second Summer of Love* series.

SECOND SUMMER OF LOVE

Screening program

November, 6 – 11: Wu Tsang

Into a Space of Love (25'33''), 2018

In this magical realist documentary, Wu Tsang explores the history and legacy of New York house music, rooted in the real-life experiences of a predominantly black and Latino queer community, and the struggles of queer/POC liberation movements. The film blends past, present, and near-future visions of New York nightlife from intergenerational scene-makers and DJs, and questions the uroborosian tension between underground culture and appropriation. It mixes the tenderness of aging with the vigilance of youth, and digs into what it really means for people to make a deeper, lifelong commitment to nightlife.

November, 13 – 18: Josh Blaaberg

Distant Planet: The Six Chapters of Simona (28'44''), 2018

Italo disco is often seen as the lesser cousin of US and UK pop, a cultural hierarchy built on a set of shared assumptions relating to nationhood, language, identity and originality. In *Distant Planet*, Josh Blaaberg combines fiction, archive and interview to explore how emotional impulses are at the core of these and all assumptions: how reality and desire are inherently intertwined. The film imagines a universe where mid-1980s New York runs riot for the latest Italo releases and Campari fountains are installed by Presidential decree. It presents the genre in all its glamour and artifice, celebrating its anonymous stars who sang in borrowed English under invented American names. Starting from the premise that life is as ephemeral as a short-lived Italo hit, the film positions the genre as being defined by loss: of language, voice and dashed hopes for a better future. It goes on to explore how the eternal desire to overcome loss is the true meaning of luxury. The film draws parallels between the loss of loved ones, the strange unreality of experiencing grief in childhood, and the unique combination of happy and sad sounds that define the music. Through archive footage, interviews and newly-imagined realities, *Distant Planet* takes three Italo disco stars and journeys with them as they reconnect with the forgotten fantasies of the music. In doing so, our Italo stars are elevated to their rightful places in pop history. Immortalised as demi-gods on the slopes of Mount Etna, all loss is defeated and cultural hierarchies overcome.

November, 20 – 25: Jeremy Deller

Everybody In The Place: An Incomplete History of Britain 1984-1992 (61'35''), 2018

Acid house is often portrayed as emerging sui generis, inspired by little more than a handful of London-based DJs discovering ecstasy on a 1987 holiday to Ibiza. In truth, the explosion of acid house and rave in the UK was a reaction to a much wider and deeper set of fault lines in British culture, stretching from the

heart of the city to the furthest reaches of the countryside, cutting across previously-impregnable boundaries of class, identity and geography. With *Everybody in the Place* the Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller upturns popular notions of rave and acid house, situating them at the very centre of the seismic social changes reshaping 1980s Britain. Rare and unseen archive materials map the journey from protest movements to abandoned warehouse raves, the white heat of industry bleeding into the chaotic release of the dancefloor. We join an A Level politics class as they discover these stories for the first time, viewing this familiar narrative from the perspective of a generation for whom it's already ancient history. We see how rave culture owes as much to the Battle of Orgreave and the underground gay clubs of Chicago as it does to shifts in musical style: not merely a cultural gesture, but the fulcrum for a generational shift in British identity, linking industrial histories and radical action to the wider expanses of a post-industrial future.

Wu Tsang is an award-winning filmmaker and visual artist. Her projects have been presented at museums and film festivals internationally, including MoMA, Guggenheim, Whitney, LACMA, Tate Modern, Stedelijk, Berlinale, Hot Docs, and SXSW. Wu was a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow (Film/Video) and is currently shortlisted for the 2018 Hugo Boss Prize. Her first feature film *WILDNESS* (2012) which tells the story of Los Angeles club, The Silver Platter, and the LGBTQ community it supported, premiered at MoMA's Documentary Fortnight Festival and won 'Best Documentary' at Outfest Los Angeles.

Josh Blaaberg is a filmmaker and visual artist, whose work spans both the film and art worlds. His work is concerned with national identity, memory and loss. He has recently been commissioned by Channel 4's arts strand 'Random Acts' and received funding from the British Film Institute for a film set in Ukraine which parallels post-Imperial British and Soviet decline. His work has been presented at Sundance Film Festival and SXSW.

Jeremy Deller: the work of 2004 Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller focuses on social history, often shining a light on the pressure points where pop culture and politics collide. His work has included organising a life drawing class with Iggy Pop, making a film about Depeche Mode fans and travelling across America towing a car destroyed in a Baghdad bomb attack.

Gucci: Art and cinema are both powerful creative forces that inspire and unite people across cultural and national boundaries. That is the viewpoint behind Gucci working with partners including LACMA, The Film Foundation, Frieze and the Tribeca Film Institute to celebrate visionaries who have redefined the landscape of their crafts.



CENTRO PER L'ARTE
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FONDAZIONE PER LE
ARTI CONTEMPORANEE
IN TOSCANA

Frieze Studios is a new creative production house initiating collaborative projects which bring art and cultural criticism to life. For 27 years Frieze has showcased the world's most engaging artists in *frieze* magazine and at Frieze Art Fairs. Frieze Studios has been created to provide that expertise to galleries and through partnerships with leading brands.

Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci

Fondazione per le Arti Contemporanee in Toscana

Viale della Repubblica 277 – Prato

Opening hours: everyday 10am – 8pm; Friday and Saturday 10am – 11pm. Closed on Monday

The *Second Summer of Love* film series is part of the exhibition program and can be seen in the Center ordinary opening hours. Every film is projected in loop.

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