

Communiqué de presse / Press Release**For immediate release****The CCA presents groundbreaking and experimental films in the exhibition *Intermission: Films From a Heroic Future***

From 25 November 2009 until 28 February 2010, screenings from the archives of NASA, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the National Film Board of Canada, and UbuWeb explore themes of speed and space.



L'homme vite, Guy Borremans, 1963. ONF/NFB



Rouli-roulant, Claude Jutra, 1966. ONF/NFB

Montréal, 18 November 2009 – The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) presents *Intermission: Films From a Heroic Future*, an unprecedented exhibition of rare films shown in galleries that are transformed into cinematic screening rooms for the occasion. On view from 25 November 2009 to 28 February 2010, *Intermission* features a program of rarely seen experimental, scientific, and artistic films on speed and space from the archives of NASA, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM), the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), and UbuWeb. Selected by specialised curators, the films explore the impact of velocity and technology on our past, present and future.

Functioning as an interval between the preceding and subsequent CCA exhibitions, *Intermission: Films From a Heroic Future* bridges the themes of *Speed Limits* (20 May to 8 November 2009) and *Other Space Odysseys: Greg Lynn, Michael Maltzan, and Alessandro Poli* (8 April to 6 September 2010). Marking the centenary of the foundation of the Italian Futurist movement, *Speed Limits* addressed the pivotal role played by speed in modern life, while *Other Space Odysseys* will examine historical and contemporary architectural projects related to space exploration, the idea of progress and the role of technology. *Intermission* surveys the evolving relationship between speed and space, from early reactions to new technology to nostalgic ideas of an unmechanised past. The films on view date from the 20th and 21st centuries, and show speed and technology as heroic indicators of progress or harbingers of an uncertain future. Groundbreaking experimental and artistic films explore disruption and curiosity caused by an accelerating pace of life, or evoke wonder created by the moving image. Films on flight span the eras of the Wright brothers to the space shuttle, while fantastical projections of the future are accompanied by films that question the likelihood of life in outer space.

“With *Intermission*, the CCA explores the founding myths of contemporary life. These films question the vision of the future and raise issues in an experimental and innovative way. In recent years, the CCA has undertaken a number of projects addressing the question of limits – the limits of visual perception in *Sense of the City*, of post-war notions of progress in *1973: Sorry, Out of Gas*, and of modernist urbanism and top-down planning in *Actions: What You Can Do With the City*. These exhibitions all bring to light ideas that are shaping daily experience and expectations,” commented CCA Director Mirko Zardini.

Selections from each archive are grouped by themes such as pace, rhythm, speed, flight, cosmonauts, and space, and are shown in the main screening gallery. Two additional galleries contain continuous projections: one featuring selections from the NFB and UbuWeb, and one devoted to rare footage from NASA. A final gallery serves as an archive room, where films are available for viewing at any time at nine personal stations to give visitors a more intimate experience and the opportunity to explore the depth of the archives at their own pace.

The complete program and schedule of films and *Thursday Night Features* is available at www.cca.qc.ca/intermission.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Thursday Night Features

Intermission's Thursday Night Features event series includes curators' talks and special screenings, offering visitors the chance to see feature films, explore the archives, meet the curators, and discover rare and experimental footage in a cinematic atmosphere. From 7 to 10 pm the galleries shift to become spaces for conversation and relaxing, with music, popcorn and drinks. Thursday night screenings are repeated on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 pm.

The *Thursday Night Features* series launches on 26 November with a Post-vernissage in celebration of the exhibition opening from 8 to 11 pm, with DJs Alix and Janek Bishop, video projections by Brille Brille, cash bar and popcorn.

ABOUT THE ARCHIVES

NASA

Between 1966 and 1972, NASA collected around twenty-two hours of 16-mm film footage shot in space and on the surface of the moon during the Apollo missions. For the last forty years this unique collection has been kept in cold storage at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Recently transferred to digital format, the majority of the footage has never been publically screened and includes earthrises over the moon, views from the lunar rover from the driver's perspective, Neil Armstrong's moonwalk, and re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere at 40,000 kilometres per hour. Christopher Riley and Duncan Copp of Footagevault have selected and edited this raw and uncut footage of the Apollo missions to tell the story of humankind's greatest adventure in a new way.

About the Curators

Christopher Riley is a broadcaster and filmmaker specializing in history and science documentaries. He worked with Spacelab 1 data (from an early space shuttle mission) for his Ph.D. before joining the BBC science department in the mid 1990s. Riley directed and co-produced the acclaimed documentary film *In the Shadow of the Moon* and, with Duncan Copp, Discovery Channel's award-winning *Moon Machines*. Riley has worked with the NASA film archive for the past twelve years including the co-production and restoration of the documentary film *Moonwalk One* with Duncan Copp.

Duncan Copp started working for the BBC in the mid-1990s after finishing his doctoral work on some of the first detailed geological maps of Venus for NASA. His first television work was as a researcher for the BBC's landmark geology series *Earth Story*. His first film as director was *Rocket Men of Mission 105*, which followed the training and flight of space shuttle crew STS-105 during their mission to the International Space Station. He was the 2009 recipient of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Public Service Medal.

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The National Film Board of Canada is a federal cultural organisation founded in 1939 with a mandate to produce, promote, and distribute films interpreting Canada. Over the past seventy years, the NFB has broken new ground in socially engaged documentary, auteur animation, and alternative drama, and the organisation has come to be recognised as a world-renowned public producer and distributor of relevant and innovative audiovisual works.

Albert Ohayon and Marc St-Pierre, film collection analysts at the NFB in Montréal, propose visual explorations of the disorienting pace of life, and early attempts to portray outer space. The theme of speed is broached with mid-20th-century automobile racing through to the advent of the microchip and its unprecedented acceleration of industrial production. There are humourous critiques of the rise of car culture, suburbia, and urban sprawl as well as disturbing portrayals of modern capitalism as a repressive geometric order. Also on view are works by celebrated Canadian filmmakers Claude Jutra and Norman McLaren, whose *Pas de deux* (1968) is a visually compelling experiment in choreography for film. Roman Kroiter and Colin Low's *Universe* (1960) was an early attempt to represent how outer space would look to an interplanetary explorer; a masterpiece of animation and technical ingenuity that was a source for Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

About the Curators

Marc St-Pierre has a background in cinema, theatre, and philosophy, and has been the French film collection analyst at the NFB since 2004. Albert Ohayon studied film production at Concordia University in Montréal and has worked at the NFB since 1984. As the French and English film collection analysts, St-Pierre and Ohayon program titles for the NFB's online screening room and write articles for the site on the history of the NFB, its filmmakers, and its films.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM)

The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC houses and maintains the largest collection of historic air- and spacecraft in the world.

The Archives Division of the museum acquires, documents, and maintains a collection of historically significant artefacts for public exhibition, study, and reference. These documentary materials, which span the history of flight from ancient times to the present day, include a wide range of visual and textual materials, many emphasizing the technical aspects of air- and spacecraft and their propulsion systems. The archival collection contains approximately 280 cubic metres of material, including an estimated 1.7 million photographs, 210,000 metres of motion picture film, and 2 million technical drawings. The Film Archives have a catalogued collection of over 20,000 motion picture titles, documenting the history of aerospace flight from the Wright brothers to the space shuttle.

The films chosen for *Intermission* document historical and cultural representations of humankind's journey into both air and space. Selected by Jeremy R. Kinney, curator in the Aeronautics Division of the museum, highlights include 1920s films on the advent of air travel and views of the world from above, such as a 1935 zeppelin voyage over the Andes Mountains. Newsreel clips feature oddball aircraft and helicopter inventions and their attempts to fly. Speed and technology are seen as heroic indicators of progress in such material as a promotional film about Whirlpool Corporation's contributions to the American space effort. Space travel films include Georges Méliès' celebrated *A Trip to the Moon* (1902), considered the first science fiction film, and NASA's Apollo Digest Series (1967), a summary of the entire Apollo lunar mission. The Soviet space program is presented through footage of Sputnik 1 and 2 and the Mir space station, including unusual moments like the preparation of space food from strawberries, fresh bread, and vodka. Films from Disney's Tomorrowland, a corporate showcase built in 1955 for optimistic imaginings of America's future, feature scientist Werner von Braun describing his rocket systems, space station, and moon mission plans.

About the Curator

Jeremy R. Kinney is a curator in the Aeronautics Division of the NASM. His research focuses on American technology and aeronautics in the first half of the 20th century with a specific emphasis on interwar military aviation, air racing, and aircraft propulsion. He has taught as the Centennial of Flight lecturer at the University of Maryland and is one of the co-authors of the four-volume book *The Wind and Beyond: A Documentary Journey Through the History of Aerodynamics in America*, among many other publications.

UbuWeb

UbuWeb is an independent online resource dedicated to ethnopoeitics, outsider arts, and the avant-garde. It was founded in November of 1996, initially as a repository for different forms of poetry. Over the years, UbuWeb has embraced all forms of

avant-garde projects, and its parameters continue to expand. All UbuWeb materials are made available free for non-commercial and educational use at www.ubu.com

The material selected by UbuWeb founder Kenneth Goldsmith for *Intermission* includes early experiments with stop-motion, colour, and perception, such as the Lumière Brothers' *Danse serpentine* from 1896. There are kinetic portrayals of New York City, perspectives of Jakarta and Mount Fuji that blend fiction and fact, and films that evoke wonder created by the moving image. Pioneering works of animation and virtuosic investigations into the medium of film itself include the work of Paul Glabicki. Major figures of 20th century avant-garde and radical artistic movements are also represented, such as László Moholy-Nagy, William S. Burroughs, and four rarely seen films by and about John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

About the Curator

Kenneth Goldsmith is an American poet and the founding editor of UbuWeb. Goldsmith is the author of ten books of poetry and the editor of *I'll Be Your Mirror: The Selected Andy Warhol Interviews*, which was the basis for an opera, *Trans-Warhol*, that premiered in Geneva in March of 2007. He has been awarded the Anschutz Distinguished Fellowship in American Studies at Princeton University for 2009–2010 and received the Quartz Electronic Music Award in Paris in 2009.

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Intermission: Films From a Heroic Future is a departure from the polished aesthetic of an object-based exhibition with a determined flow through the galleries. "Conceptually, *Intermission* is a new type of exhibition for the CCA. We have considered how to address the interval between exhibitions and the use of the gallery spaces in such times in a novel and interesting way for the visitor, while providing the ideal conduit to thematically link two major shows together", explained CCA Director Mirko Zardini.

Visitors are offered multiple ways and paces of interacting with the content. Tiered and mobile seating in the main screening gallery allows for a focused viewing experience. Other galleries offer simultaneous projections, personal viewing stations, or tranquil, dark spaces with low furniture. The aesthetic character of *Intermission* is one of temporariness, both in-process and informal. Large citations on the gallery walls from the *Speed Limits* exhibition remain visible, as do drill holes and marks from the de-installation process. *Intermission* reveals some of the mechanics of preparing and installing a museum exhibition that typically remain hidden from public view.



CCA BOOKSTORE

The CCA Bookstore offers a selection of books and DVDs on the theme of speed and space. Children's books present retro visions of the future, from Sasek's *This is the Way to the Moon* (1964) to the adventures of Tintin. Literary explorations of space are found in works by such authors as Jules Verne and Thomas Pynchon. Recent publications on the moon landing and history of space travel are complemented by artistic forays into the theme, and a selection of classic NFB shorts and films on DVD complete a collection of books on film and architecture. Visitors to the Post-vernissage on 26 November are entitled to a 10% discount on these titles from 8 to 9 pm.

THE CCA

The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) is an international research centre and museum founded in 1979 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive Collection, the CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on the art of architecture and its history, theory, practice and role in society today. Twenty years after opening its doors to the public, the CCA is celebrating its anniversary with an ambitious series of activities presented by Phyllis Lambert, Founding Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Mirko Zardini, CCA Director and Chief Curator. They consist of programs and initiatives that underscore the achievements of the CCA throughout 2009 and are intended to increase its influence and role as a unique cultural institution.

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High-resolution digital photographs are available online at www.cca.qc.ca/press under the heading "Exhibitions & Publications." The login is **general** and the password is **journal**.



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