

14.07.2018–10.02.2019, ZKM\_Atrium 1+2

## **Art in Motion. 100 Masterpieces with and through Media** An Operative Canon

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Press conference: Wed., 11.07.2018, 11 am

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***This exhibition shows you art as you have never seen it before, and thus also the world as you have never seen it before.***

The exhibition presents time-based media arts as the foremost innovation in the arts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; as the moving history of the art of motion utilizing technical devices: from cinema to kinetics, from light to sound. The introduction of motion into art set art itself in motion.

The subtitle of the exhibition's title references a popular German TV series, *100 Masterpieces*, of the 1980s, which in media historical terms indicates a blind spot: although the series was broadcast by the electronic medium of television, the majority of masterpieces it featured were executed in traditional image media such as painting. In addition to well-known positions in media art such as Nam June Paik, Maya Deren, John Cage, Lynn Hershman, Sergei Eisenstein, Ulrike Rosenbach, Zhang Peili, Bill Viola und Michael Snow, the exhibition presents important pioneering achievements in the field of media art that have so far received little or no attention in art discourse, such as Mary Ellen Bute, Zdeněk Pešánek, Ivan Ladislav Galeta und Waldemar Cordeiro.

The canon proposed in the exhibition is based on a new operational method — a rhizomatic network of masterpieces and reference works. The works have not been selected on the basis of the classic notion of an image, which is oriented on painting and seeks to press the new media into the tradition of the visual arts. Media art cannot be separated from devices and machines; therefore, the exhibition defines media art for the first time as dependent upon three conditions: production, distribution, and reception with technical devices.

With the camera at the end of the nineteenth century (E. Mach, E.-J. Marey, E. Muybridge) the study of motion found an appropriate medium for recording and representation. With photography, which was denied the status of art for a century, the scandal of media art took its course. It not only changed the traditional status of an image, but transformed „the entire character of art“ (W. Benjamin).

Central to any machine is motion, that is why we speak of cinematography

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**CAFA**  
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中央美术学院 2008

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— the writing of motion — and of kinetics — the art of motion. Painting and sculpture are spatial arts; media are time-based arts. Thus clocks, as time machines, are among the antecedents of media. The cogwheels of clocks led to the triumph of wheel-based technologies: from transportation machines (bicycle, train, automobile) to the image machines. Cameras, in which film reels rotated, were developed to record and playback motion, and projectors invented where wheels transported strips of celluloid. From Gutenberg's movable type via pure motion machines to the moving images and the moved observers (virtual reality): art is increasingly in motion.

Electromagnetic waves were discovered at the end of the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century they replaced wheel-based technologies and became the foundation for radio technology, the wireless telecommunication of data (telephone, television, radio, etc.). The mechanical machines of images and motion became digital image media. Finally, the simulation of motion (cinematography) resulted in the simulation of life (Bio art).

This exhibition offers an innovative parkour through the fascinating cosmos of technical media-based art involving 100 masterpieces produced during the last 100 years. The exhibition will move you — physically, cognitively, and emotionally.

**Curators of the exhibition:** Peter Weibel and Siegfried Zielinski

**Artists:** Arseny Avraamov, Nanni Balestrini, Banū Mūsā ibn Shākir, Vladimir Baranov-Rossiné, Gianfranco Baruchello, Joachim Baur, Robert Bean, Louis Bec, Samuel Beckett, Bell Laboratories, Hans Bellmer, Walter Benjamin, Joseph Beuys, Léon Theremin, Harald Bode, Vladimir Bonačić, Bertolt Brecht, Robert Breer, Bazon Brock, Francis Brugière, Wojciech Bruszewski, Lucien Bull, Luis Buñuel, Mary Ellen Bute, John Cage, Thaddeus Cahill, Peter Campus, Miguel Chevalier, Henri Chopin, Henning Christiansen, Christo, Gerd Conradt, Hellmuth Costard, Edmond Couchot, Douglass Crockwell, Larry Cuba, Georges Demenÿ, Gabriele Devecchi, Johanna Diehl, Charles Dockum, Christoph Dreher, Marcel Duchamp, Jean Dupuy, Charles and Ray Eames, E.A.T., Harold Eugene Edgerton, Sergei Eisenstein, VALIE EXPORT, Harun Farocki, Morton Feldman, Ferenc Ficzek, Monika Fleischmann & Wolfgang Strauss, Sylvie Fleury, Masaki Fujihata, Ivan Ladislav Galeta, Arthur Ganson, Walter Giers, Frank Gillette, Jean-Luc Godard, Heiner Goebbels, Frank Halbig & Iris Droegekamp, Mona Hatoum, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Auguste and Louis Lumière, Gary Hill, Károly Hopp-Halász, Ányos Jedlik, Hu Jie Ming, Ray Johnson, Joe Jones, Béla Julesz, Yeondoo Jung, Eduardo Kac, Mauricio Kagel, Airan Kang, Yoichiro Kawaguchi, On Kawara, Edward Kienholz, Frederick Kiesler, Athanasius Kircher, Jürgen Klauke, Milan Knížák, Ferdinand Kriwet, Shigeko Kubota, Edmund Kuppel, David Larcher, Walther Lenertz, LMS (Jörg Lindenmaier, Anthony Moore, Peter C. Simon),

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Alvin Lucier, Martin Reinhart, Len Lye, Ernst Mach, Jacques Mahé de La Villeglé, Frank Joseph Malina, Christian Marclay, Étienne-Jules Marey, Chris Marker, Norman McLaren, Franziska Megert, Olaf Metzler, Werner Meyer-Eppler, Manfred Miersch, Laurent Mignonneau & Christa Sommerer, Dénes von Mihály, Egbert Mittelstädt, László Moholy-Nagy, Manfred Mohr, Lutz Mommartz, Dániel Muszka, Michael Naimark, Werner Nekes, Jean-François Nicéron, Nam June Paik, Zhang Peili, Pier Giorgio Perotto, Zdeněk Pešánek, Walter Pichler, PIPS:lab, Sergio Prego, Stephen Quay & Timothy Quay, Raymond Queneau, Gunter Rambow, Kibong Rhee, Józef Robakowski. Otto E. Rössler, Ulrike Rosenbach, Boris Rosing, Dieter Roth, Luigi Russolo, Zbigniew Rybczyński, Oskar Sala, Scenocosme, Pierre Schaeffer, Konrad Balder Schöffelen, Hermann Scherchen, Ruth Schnell, HA Schult, Buky Schwartz, Ira Schneider, Paul Sermon, Richard Serra & Carlota Fay Schoolman, Claude Shannon, Paul Sharits, Jeffrey Shaw, Michael Snow, Stelarc, Karl-Heinz Stockhausen, Székely, Tamás Szentjóby, Aldo Tambellini, Jean Tinguely, Gianni Toti, Timm Ulrichs, Olivier Vallet, Stan Vanderbeek & Kenneth C. Knowlton, Steina Vasulka, Woody Vasulka, Otakar Vávra & František Pilát, Dziga Vertov, Peter Vogel, Stephan von Huene, Dénes von Mihály, Wolf Vostell, Michel Waisvisz, Tamás Waliczky, Franz Erhard Walther, Peter Weibel, Robert Whitman, John Whitney, Virgil Widrich, Robert Wilson, Steve Wozniak, Iannis Xenakis, Miao Xiaochun, La Monte Young, Edward E. Zajac, Peter Zimmermann

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#### **Art in Motion in Beijing**

The exhibition *Art in Motion* will take place in Beijing as part of the CAFAM International Biennale of Media Art 2019. Zhang Ga, the curator responsible for media art, is Associate Professor and Director of the *Center for Art and Technology* at the *China Central Academy of Fine Arts* (CAFA), and Senior Fellow at the *Media Arts and Technology Graduate Program* of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Since 2015 he has headed the *Chronus Art Center* in Shanghai. He curated the First, Second and Third International Art Exhibition for New Media in Beijing, introducing the global discourse on new media art in China.