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SEASON TWO: FOLLOW THE MUD

INSTANCE NO. 5

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 2019, 6-8 P.M.

STAPLES AND RUBBER BANDS SCULPTURE AND VIDEO 1967–2019

is a collaborative project comprising various works, both by the artists individually and collectively.

MICHEL AUDER
CLEOPATRA
1970
126 MINUTES
FILM TRANSFERRED TO HD VIDEO
↓

Prompted by the publicity of a 1968 *New York Times Sunday Magazine* feature on his wife, the Warhol “Superstar” Viva, and him, Michel Auder received considerable financial backing in 1969 to direct a feature-length movie that would allow him to bring a new scale and scope to his underground sensibility.

Working for the first time with sound and a professional crew, Auder recruited a group of Warhol regulars, including Viva, Taylor Mead, Ondine, Ultra Violet, and Louis Waldron, to act in his freewheeling portrayal of the Egyptian queen Cleopatra’s life and, in particular, her marriage to Julius Cesar and their subsequent voyage from Alexandria to Rome—a story previously told in Joseph Mankiewicz’s notoriously expensive and extravagant 1963 film of the same name, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

In its sketchy burlesque of the Hollywood epic, Auder’s *Cleopatra* is playfully perneated with willful anachronisms and ironic reversals. In the first half of the film, the snowy expanses of Upstate New York serve as the Egyptian desert (and snowmobiles are canels) and the towering skyscrapers of Manhattan are pyramids. Yet, when the plot moves to Rome, the film depicts the actual eternal city, albeit with scenes just as often shot at Cinecittà, the same Roman soundstage Mankiewicz used for his movie, when not taken amid the car-filled modern metropolis or the sixteenth-century mannerist gardens north of the city at Bomarzo, as ancient locations. The actors, in their extemporaneous dialogue, frequently acknowledge these spatial and temporal paradoxes—sometimes quite humorously as when Mead, playing the queen’s minister, states he just read in the newspaper that it’s 472 BC and they need to find an architect who can build an inn without any rooms to accommodate the prophecy of the birth of Jesus, which will take place nearly a half century in the future.

Michael Stickrod’s earthy sculptures present a physical correlate to Auder’s time-traveling and subversive allegory of hedonistic decadence and despotic cruelty. If the two large coiled snakes cast in bronze, *Untitled (Coil Snake)*, and *Untitled (Snake II)*, both 2019, and the beeswax cast of a human leg, *Arisnoe’s Leg*, 2019, adorned in beer-can-tab chainmail suggest a similarly knowing transformation of ancient mythic motifs into a common modern lexicon, a lush carpet of dried goldenrod flowers punctuated by two root balls from cherry trees indicate the ultimate authority of the natural forces of growth and decay.

Stickrod’s largely recycled materials and roughly reproductive techniques invest his objects with a sense of ruinous economy, giving the equally patinated and somewhat degraded copy of Auder’s film a sense of some kind of archeological document rescued from a long-vanished civilization.

Text by Robert Slifkin

MICHEL AUDER

+

MICHAEL STICKROD

SEAS

MICHEL AUDER + MICHAEL STICKROD

MICHEL AUDER
CLEOPATRA
1970
126 MINUTES

MICHAEL STICKROD
UNTITLED (COIL SNAKE)
2019
BRONZE

MICHAEL STICKROD
UNTITLED (SNAKE II)
2019
BRONZE, CHERRY ROOT BALL

MICHAEL STICKROD
ARISNOE'S LEG
2019
BEESWAX, ALUMINUM, CHERRY ROOT BALL

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THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 2019, 6-8 P.M.

Instance No. 0: Sept. 20, 2019, 1–2 p.m., second shelf, shelf talk #8; New York Art Book Fair, Classroom Series, MoMA PS1 (off-site)
Instance No. 1: Oct. 10, 2019, 6–8 p.m., *Season Two: Follow the Mud* opening, sound performance by C. Spencer Yeh
Instance No. 2: Oct. 13, 2019, 1–4 p.m., Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann: *EXPOSURE*; Glenbrow / Gunning House, Blacklick, Ohio (off-site)
Instance No. 3: Nov. 10, 2019, 12–6 p.m., Michel Auder + Michael Stickrod present *May '68 in '78*
Instance No. 4: Nov. 19, 2019, 6–7:30 p.m., Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann invites Julia Trotta, presenting *Forget to be afraid: A portrait of Linda Nochlin*
Instance No. 5: Dec. 12, 2019, 6–8 p.m., Michel Auder + Michael Stickrod present *Cleopatra* (1970)
Instance No. 6: Jan. 30, 2020, 6–8 p.m., Michel Auder + Michael Stickrod present *Subversive Historian* (2019)
Instance No. 7: Feb. 1, 2020, 2–3 p.m., Heide Hinrichs and second shelf
Instance No. 8: Feb. 29, 2020, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and March 1, 2020, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 2nd edition of An Art Book Affair, with a special presentation by VIER5 on Feb. 29

SEASON TWO: FOLLOW THE MUD

OCT. 10, 2019 - MARCH 15, 2020

BEELER GALLERY

BEELER

GALLERY

IS ALWAYS

FREE AND

OPEN TO

THE PUBLIC

www.beelergallery.org

BEELER GALLERY IS LOCATED AT 60 CLEVELAND AVE., COLUMBUS, OH 43215, USA

ABOUT THE SEASON

Organized as a series of "instances" in a process of accumulation, each instance in *Season Two: Follow the Mud* is accompanied by an installation and activated by performances, screenings, and dialogs at Beeler Gallery and beyond. Artworks from various solo artist projects circulate and intersect as the gallery footprint expands throughout the five-month-long season. *Season Two: Follow the Mud* is curated by Beeler Gallery Director of Exhibitions, Jo-ey Tang, and co-curated with Associate Director of Exhibitions, Ian Ruffino, and Registrar, Marla Roddy.

ARTISTS

Michel Auder + Michael Stickrod
Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann
Heide Hinrichs
VIER5
+
Julia Trotta (invited by Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann)
C. Spencer Yeh (invited by Michael Stickrod)

BEELER GALLERY SUPPORT



SEASON TWO: FOLLOW THE MUD SUPPORT

Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann: *WATER* is supported by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States and is realized in co-production with Musée d'Art Contemporain de la Haute-Vienne, France. *Instance No. 2: Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann: EXPOSURE* is presented in partnership with EXPO CHICAGO and media sponsor Art in America. Additional support from Brothers Drake Meadery and Harriet Gardens. Architectural consultant for Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann: *WATER* at Beeler Gallery: Andrew Cruse.

Downtown Art Sunday media sponsor: Columbus Underground.

THANK YOU TO THESE INDIVIDUALS WHO FOLLOWED THE MUD

Tanguy Accart, Sonel Breslav, Guillaume Bresson, Columbus Printed Arts Center, Joseph Charlton, Mark Chepp, Stephanie Cristello, Andrew Cruse, Enmanuelle Day, Anne-Claire Duprat, Richard Fletcher, Lia Gangitano, Charlotte Gordon, Naniko Kunimoto, Celeste Malvar-Stewart, Minus Plato, Kris Paulsen, Youna Kwak, Rafaela Lopez, Daniel Marcus, Jane Murphy, Participant Inc., Tim Rietenbach, Michael Rozell, Nikos Rutkowski, David Senior, Suzanne Silver, Southern Ohio Museum, Dorri Steinhoff and Joseph Kuspan, Lucille Toth, Emily Uldrich, Ryland Wharton, Ralph Williams, Roger Williams

GALLERY STAFF

Wei Ling Chang, Graduate Assistant
Zane Miller, Lead Preparator
JiaHao Peng, Gallery Assistant
Marla Roddy, Registrar
Ian Ruffino, Associate Director of Exhibitions
Jo-ey Tang, Director of Exhibitions

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BEELER GALLERY

at Columbus College of Art & Design

VIER5