

Ken Jacobs
Up The Illusion

Broadway Windows Gallery
April 15 - November 23, 2023
On View April 15 – November 26, 2023
Outdoor Opening Wednesday, 19th 6-8pm

80WSE proudly presents *Up The Illusion*, a momentous survey exhibition celebrating the 90th birthday of Ken Jacobs, one of our most iconic and indefatigable moving image artists. Curated by artist and writer Andrew Lampert, this street level exhibition features a panoramic selection of Jacobs' nearly 70 years of pioneering films and digital videos in the Broadway Windows gallery located on the corner of Broadway and E. 10th Street.

Dating from the mid-1950s through today, and unfolding over the course of seven months, the thematically organized works displayed in each window will change multiple times over the course of the exhibition to spotlight the wildly divergent aspects of the artist's prolific output. This is the first exhibition to feature Jacobs' largely unseen drawings alongside his critically acclaimed moving image works. Experienced side-by-side, the painterly concerns and qualities at the heart of Jacobs' distinctive multimedia approach are brought firmly into the foreground.

Called "one of the most extraordinary unknown personalities in the history of American movies" by critic J. Hoberman, Ken Jacobs (b.1933) is a key figure in the history of experimental cinema. A native New Yorker, Jacobs studied painting with Hans Hofmann in the early 1950s before embracing filmmaking and performance as his primary mediums. A central figure in the underground film movement of the 1960s, Jacobs' decades of restless output includes more than forty motion pictures and dozens of live performance pieces made with both his self-invented double 16mm "Nervous System" projection apparatus and his nearly indescribable, almost intergalactic "Nervous Magic Lantern." Since embracing video in 1999, he has produced well over 150 space, time and perception bending pieces that transpose his formal and 3D explorations into the digital dimension.

The 80WSE *Up The Illusion* website serves as a cinemathèque-style extension of the exhibition where viewers can watch all the works currently on display in the Broadway Windows on their own viewing devices. QR codes are provided on the Broadway Windows for all audiences. Some videos contain strobe effect sequences and flickering light.

Curated by Andrew Lampert

Commissioned by Howie Chen, 80WSE



80WSE Gallery
80 Washington Square East
New York, NY 10003

212 998 5747
80wse.org

Broadway Windows gallery is a series of five street-level display windows located at the corner of Broadway and East 10th Street. The installations can be viewed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To view all the video works in full at any time, please visit the 80WSE exhibition website. Some videos contain strobe effect sequences and flickering light.

XCXHXEXRXXIXEXSX (2021), a recent feature length work by Jacobs, will screen on July 25 with the artist in person at Light Industry in Brooklyn. Full details will be announced in early summer.

Ken Jacobs

Ken Jacobs is the recipient of multiple awards from the National Society of Film Critics, numerous major grants (NEA, Rockefeller, Guggenheim, Creative Capital, NYSCA), and other prizes. His 1970 film *Tom, Tom, The Piper's Son* was selected by the Library of Congress for inclusion on the National Film Registry. His innovative works are regularly screened around the world and he has been the subject of multiple retrospectives over the decades. Jacobs has films and videos in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Anthology Film Archives, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Centre Pompidou and in many more museums around the world. A Distinguished Professor of Cinema Emeritus at S.U.N.Y. Binghamton, where he taught for over 30 years, Jacobs' influence has deeply impacted several generations of moving image artists. Often written about in the area of cinema studies, his work has been analyzed in the 2011 book *Optic Antics: The Cinema Of Ken Jacobs* (Oxford University Press) and he is the author of a major forthcoming volume of collected writings from The Visible Press in England.

Andrew Lampert

Andrew Lampert is an artist, writer and archivist whose extensive body of film, video and performance works have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Centre Pompidou, Getty Museum, PS1, New York Film Festival, British Film Institute, Toronto International Film Festival and the International Film Festival of Rotterdam among many other international venues. The former Curator of Collections at Anthology Film Archives, Lampert has preserved hundreds of films by many of cinema's most esteemed artists, including Ken Jacobs. He has edited books on Tony Conrad, George Kuchar, Harry Smith, Manuel DeLanda and most recently William Wegman. Lampert is a primary in the firm Chen & Lampert, and the co-author of the monthly advice column *Hard Truths for Art in America*. His most recent curated exhibition was *Attention Line* in 2022 at Artists Space, NY. Lampert's videos are distributed by Electronic Arts Intermix and he has released two albums, *Lush Valley* and *A Mood Supreme*.

80WSE Gallery

Founded in 1974, 80 Washington Square East, NYU is a not-for-profit gallery presenting contemporary and historical exhibitions. The gallery exhibits in two further locations, at Broadway Windows at Broadway and East 10th Street, and Washington Square Windows.

Curator Howie Chen and Gallery Manager Jon Huron.

For more information, please contact Jon Huron at jlh403@nyu.edu