

APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL

For Bruce

Double-Channel Video Installation, 4K, 2 Synchronized videos, Stereo, Color, 2022

18 min 46 sec

Ed. 1/5 (Edition of 5 + 2 AP)



The double-channel video installation *For Bruce* is Apichatpong's tribute to his long-time friend, experimental filmmaker Bruce Baillie (1931-2020). Apichatpong was introduced to Baillie's avant-garde filmmaking practice at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the 1990s, and has formed a strong emotional, personal bond with Baillie over the years. As part of the exhibition *Apichatpong Weerasethakul: Primitive* at the New Museum in 2011, Apichatpong also presented Bruce Baillie's autobiographical film *Quick Billy* (1967-70).

Apichatpong filmed the overlapped videos of *For Bruce* when he was trekking in an Amazon jungle in Peru, recovering from COVID. Peaceful and endless is the subject of the videos: a wooden bridge in an immensely lively natural environment. One sees a variety of animals, and flickering light; hears the tranquil flow of the water beneath the bridge, and the artist's coughs. Filming a non-place in the jungle that is unaffected by memories and is instead unifying beings on a spiritual dimension, Apichatpong offers the artwork as a portrait of Baillie, an artist who embraced film in a primitive way, as alchemy. *For Bruce* is also linked to another new video installation *Seeing Circles*, in which Apichatpong means to practise a way of looking that entails no time or memory, "but just to look with our conditioning, simply to be, with camera as a medium."