

PRESS RELEASE

Presentation House Gallery opens its 2004 fall season on Thursday, September 16 at 8 pm with two exhibitions: a colour film by Jack Goldstein and a video installation by Jeremy Shaw.

Vancouver artist JEREMY SHAW (aka March 21) produces media-based art works that interpret the youth subcultures of rave, hiphop, graffiti and skateboard. His observations are informed by personal involvements in these social scenes. A recent graduate of Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Shaw was raised in North Vancouver and, as a child took drawing classes at Presentation House. He is also a successful electronic musician, known as Circlesquare, who has an extensive discography and is signed on with Britain's Output Recordings. He has recently exhibited in *The Theme for Tonight* (Tracey Lawrence Gallery, Vancouver) *Video Heroes* (Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts, Montreal and Cambridge Galleries, Ontario) and *I am a Curator* (Chisenhale Gallery, London).

Presentation House Gallery will premiere Shaw's new video installation, *DMT*. Comprised of eight television monitors in an octagonal space, the piece forces an encounter with people high on the hallucinogen DMT (dimethyltryptamine). This intense, hyper-real portrait gallery mimics the synthetic properties of the drug itself. The subjects' immediate recollection of their out of body experience are described in subtitles. They struggle to communicate, yet are unable to articulate the profound experience. This piece points to the limits of the language and the imagination and the difficulties of social communication.

PHG will produce a catalogue for the exhibition that includes an essay by Clint Burnham, a writer and teacher at Capilano College. On Saturday, October 9, at 2 pm. Clint Burnham will give a talk on Jeremy Shaw's art and its influences followed by a discussion between Burnham and Shaw.

Also on exhibit will be a film that runs continuously entitled *Under Water Sea Fantasy* by renowned artist JACK GOLDSTEIN. Born in Montreal in 1945, he studied at CalArts and became a prominent figure in the New York and California art scenes, especially during the eighties. Best known for his paintings and experimental films, Goldstein also produced sound works and performance art. This short experimental film reveals the artists' acute understanding of the perception of spectacle and the power of image. Using production values influenced by Hollywood studio techniques, he exploits the spectacular effects of visual presence and the interplay of sound and image. Here footage of natural phenomena such as underwater life, volcanic eruptions and celestial events is montaged into a flow of appearing and disappearing energies with no clear narrative structure. At once serene and violent, the seductive visual impact of this film is mesmerizing.

Jack Goldstein had innumerable exhibitions and in recent years had retrospectives at the Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart and Le Magasin, Grenoble, France. The Whitney Museum of Art in New York recently organized an overview of his performances and films and *Under Water Sea Fantasy* was shown in the last Whitney Biennial.