

PRESENTATION
HOUSE
GALLERY

László Moholy-Nagy & Simon Starling March 24 – April 29, 2007

Opening Reception on Friday, March 23 at 8 pm

LECTURES

Simon Starling Saturday March 24, 2 pm
Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour (at Davie)
in partnership with the Contemporary Art Society casv.ca

László Moholy-Nagy and Biocentrism
by Oliver Botar Sunday March 25, 2 pm at PHG

This exhibition brings together two artists from different eras whose works reflect on modernity and technology. Early in the twentieth century, Moholy-Nagy claimed that: "The reality of our century is technology: the invention, construction, and maintenance of machines. To be a user of machines is to be of the spirit of this century. Everyone is equal before the machine." These prescient ideas have taken on new implications in the digital realities of the twenty-first century. The film projections that are featured in this exhibition reveal how the mechanical eye of the camera creates a unique form of seeing. The exhibition offers reflections on the social impact of twentieth-century machine culture.

László Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946) was born in Hungary in 1895 and lived throughout Europe before becoming the director of the Design School in Chicago in the late 1930s. A significant figure in the Weimar Bauhaus period, he was a pioneering innovator who worked with various mediums, including painting, sculpture, film and photography. He was also a graphic and stage designer, and an influential writer and teacher who published theories about perception - what he called "the new vision." Considered one of the most inventive artists of the 1920s and 30s, his experimental photography included cameraless photography (photograms) and colour work in slide form.

Running continuously in the gallery will be the 1930 film *Ein Lichtspiel schwarz weiss grau*, based on Moholy's kinetic sculpture, *Light Prop for an Electric Stage*. The film documents the play of light and shadow created by the mechanistic movements of the sculpture. Similar to the abstract effects in his photograms, this black and white film light is an investigation of light as material and transparent form.

The exhibition also marks the North American premiere of a new installation by the distinguished British artist, Simon Starling. Born in 1967 in Epsom, England and a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, this multi media artist has quickly risen to international prominence. Winner of the coveted Turner Prize in 2005, he has exhibited widely and now, at Presentation House Gallery, for the first time in Canada.

Starling has described his artwork as a "physical manifestation of a thought process" that often involves transforming objects into new constructions through handmade production processes. The mixed media installation featured at PHG highlights this concern for mechanized and handmade production, and physical materials as histories of place. Produced in collaboration with the Berlin metal manufacturing firm referred to in the title, *Wilhelm Noack oHG* is a 35 mm., black and white film projection and projector construction. The relationship between the footage of the workshop with sounds of clanging metal and the endlessly looping projection apparatus are intertwined. Related to Starling's interest in icons of the modern, this work is a poetic reflection on a type of industrial production that is rapidly disappearing.

Curated by Helga Pakasaar
Media contact: Diane Evans, 604-986-1351

PHG

333 CHESTERFIELD AVENUE tel 604 986 1351 fax 604 986 5380
NORTH VANCOUVER BC www.presentationhousegall.com
CANADA V7M 3G9 info@presentationhousegall.com