

PRESENTATION
HOUSE
GALLERY

FLAKEY

THE EARLY WORKS OF GLENN LEWIS

September 11 to November 7, 2010

Saturday, September 11, 7 pm
Opening Reception and kimchee cooking demonstration



Glenn Lewis, "Ribbon Run on Kingsway", 1970.

This exhibition marks the first in-depth investigation of the early works of Vancouver artist Glenn Lewis, an artist whose socially engaged spirit helped incite the cross disciplinary and interactive practices informing west coast art in the late 1960s and 1970s. Like many artists of the era, Lewis adopted a persona, Flakey Rose Hip, a name synonymous with art that was festive and playful. While showcasing Lewis' humour, the exhibition underscores the conceptual rigour at the heart of rarely seen works from the late-1960s to the mid-1970s: films, video, a slide projection piece, ceramic sculpture and photography. The exhibition also includes documents of Lewis' early performance works together with key performances remounted for this occasion. Highlights include *Artifact*, a large ceramic mural commissioned for the Canada Pavilion at the 1970 Osaka World's Fair, *Forest Industry* (1969), a film of the artist demarcating with surveyor's tape a square kilometer of forest on the Sunshine Coast, as well as a number of photographic series that chart urban geographies. Informal and diaristic, these works document the contingencies of mundane experience and simple actions.

The exhibition will take place across a number of Vancouver locations. In October we inaugurate the new, co-operatively run gallery Satellite on the second floor of 560 Seymour Street with *Four Intersections* (1970), four corner video projections that depict the artist wrapping tape around four Vancouver street corners. A performance of the *Forest Industry* film and a symposium about Glenn Lewis will also take place at this downtown space. An outdoor performance event, *400 Yards of Burned Paper in a Square*—originally enacted at the University of Calgary in 1970—will be performed at dusk in October at an oceanside location. During the course of this project, a major commission of 1973 that is installed at the National Science Library in Ottawa, *Great Wall of 1984*, will be reanimated. In keeping with the spirit of the artist's original call for participation, this wall of boxed personal artifacts will be added to through an internet call for new entries. In conjunction with the exhibition, Presentation House Gallery is producing a catalogue featuring essays by Dieter Roelstraete and Jordan Strom.

Glenn Lewis was born in Chemainus in 1935 and studied at the Vancouver School of Art, UBC (here he also taught art) and with the ceramicist, Bernard Leach in England. Initially working in ceramics, by the mid-1960s he began developing a remarkably expansive art practice that has been widely exhibited, performed and screened since then and is in major collections. His prolific output includes sculpture, performance, environments, synchronized swimming events, multimedia happenings, installation, correspondence art, script-writing, film, photography, dinner parties and parades. A founder of Vancouver's legendary Western Front, Intermedia Society and New Era Social Club, he is an influential figure in the west coast milieu as well as international networks. Often involving travel across the globe, many of his creative projects have been collaborations and, in keeping with his questioning of artistic authorship, remain unidentified. Glenn Lewis's films are part of the major touring exhibition *Traffic: Conceptual Art In Canada* that opens this fall in Toronto.

SATELLITE GALLERY IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE MICHAEL O'BRIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION.

Media contact & Group Tour booking please contact:
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Top right, clockwise: All images courtesy Glenn Lewis.
400 yards of Burned Paper in a Square performed at The University of Calgary in 1970.
Glenn Lewis performing *Hitler at Wreck Beach* in 1972.
New York Corres Sponge Dance Shoal of Vancouver, 1972, performance.
Blue Tape around a City Block, 1969, 16 mm film loop, 9 min.
Details, City Block, 1970, colour photograph.
Details, City Block, 1970, colour photograph.

