

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS EXHIBITION “RESTLESS: FILMS AND OTHER WORKS BY MIRCEA CANTOR”

Co-Presented by the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York



Video installations, short films, drawings, and photographs by internationally acclaimed artist Mircea Cantor

**March 3–May 6, 2011 at Museum of the Moving Image
Cantor in person for opening event on Saturday, March 3**

New York, February 9, 2012—Seven women dressed in white walk in a circle in the sand, sweeping away their footprints. A young boy attempts to cut a stream of water with scissors. A crowd of Albanian demonstrators march through the streets holding mirrors instead of signs. These are some of the simple yet evocative images created by Romanian-born artist Mircea Cantor (b. 1977), a recent recipient of the prestigious Marcel Duchamp Prize.

From March 3 through May 6, 2012, Museum of the Moving Image and the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York will present an exhibition of video installations, short films, and other works by Cantor. Although Cantor is widely acclaimed throughout Europe, and has had works shown at The Museum of Modern Art, this will be his first solo museum exhibition in New York City.

The exhibition, *Restless: Films and Other Works by Mircea Cantor*, will be presented in the Museum’s Amphitheater Gallery. It includes installations of three video works: *Tracking Happiness* (2009), *Vertical Attempt* (2009), and *I Decided Not to Save the World* (2011); a series of drawings; and a photographic diptych. Selected programs of his short films will be shown continuously in the Bartos Screening Room. Cantor will be at the Museum for a special opening program on Saturday, March 3, with a screening of his films followed by a moderated discussion and reception. He will also participate in a conversation at the French Embassy in New York on Monday, March 5. (Details for all events and screenings are included below.)

The Marcel Duchamp Prize was awarded to Mircea Cantor in 2011 in Paris (where he

makes his home), which is fitting because his wry, conceptual work has been compared to that of Duchamp in his use of the readymade to attract attention to the polysemantic nature of everyday objects. While his thematic concerns may reflect his identity as a Romanian-born artist, his work is also accessible and universal. As he has said, refusing to be pigeonholed by identification with one nation, “art is my country.”

The Museum’s Chief Curator, David Schwartz, said that “Like Duchamp, Cantor creates images that are at once crystalline in their clarity, yet deeply paradoxical. They are concerned with issues of memory, history, oppression, and the futility—and necessity—of hope.”

Cantor’s work is in the collections of major institutions around the world, including in the U.S. at The Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, D.C.), the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN). He is currently preparing a solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, due to open October 2012. (See below for full biography.)

[For press-use only: Videos of Cantor’s works may be viewed online at <http://vimeopro.com/yvonlambert/mirceacantor>]

PUBLIC PROGRAMS WITH THE ARTIST:

Opening Event with Mircea Cantor: Screening, Discussion, and Reception

Saturday, March 3, 3:00 pm

At Museum of the Moving Image, Bartos Screening Room

Mircea Cantor will introduce a selection of his short films, which are often created from his own documentary recordings. In Cantor’s hands, these captured moments become complex and suggestive. The selection includes ***The Landscape Is Changing*** (2003, 22 mins.), ***Dead Time*** (2003, 2 mins.), ***Tribute*** (2004, 3 mins.), ***The snow and the man*** (2005, 10 mins.), ***Nulle part Ailleurs*** (2000, 12 mins.), and ***Double Heads Matches*** (2003, 17 mins.) The program will be followed by a reception. Free with Museum admission.

Mircea Cantor in conversation with Steven Henry Madoff

Monday, March 5, 6:30 pm

At the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10075

Join Mircea Cantor for a conversation with writer, editor and art critic Steven Henry Madoff about his work and the exhibition presently on view in New York. Presented by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York and the Museum of the Moving Image. Free Admission. Seating is limited. Admission will be on a first -registered, first-served basis. To register please visit <http://www.frenchculture.org/spip.php?rubrique21>.

CONTINUOUS SCREENINGS IN THE BARTOS SCREENING ROOM

Weekdays starting at 1:30 p.m. Weekends starting at 10:30 a.m.

New selection starts each Saturday.

March 3–9 and April 7–13

The leash of the dog that was longer than his life (2009, 17 mins.)

Dead Time (2003, 3 mins.)

March 10–16 and April 14–20

The Landscape Is Changing (2003, 22 mins.)

(...) (2003, 7 mins.)

Dead Time (2003, 3 mins.)

March 17–23 and April 21–27

Double Heads Matches (2003, 18 mins.)

Ping Pang Pong (2002, 6 mins.)

March 24–30 and April 28–May 4

The snow and the man (made with Gabriela Vanga, 2005, 10 mins.)

Zooooooooom (2009, 3 mins.)

Tribute (2004, 3 mins.)

March 31–April 6

The right man at the right place (I) (2002, 4 mins.)

The right man at the right place (II) (2002, 4 mins.)

Recycling (1999, 2 mins.)

May 5–6

The Landscape Is Changing (2003, 22 mins.)

Double Heads Matches (2003, 18 mins.)

Zooooooooom (2009, 3 mins.)

About Mircea Cantor

Mircea Cantor (born 1977, in Romania, lives and works in Paris, France) is a visual artist who has received wide acclaim for his subtle commentary on issues of contemporary society. Cantor's choice of media is diverse. The subjects that he tackles in his videos, installations, photographs and drawings or his textual works express a sharp awareness of the most brutal realities in today's changing worlds. Cantor's 2005 video work *Deeparture*, which was on view in the contemporary galleries at The Museum of Modern Art, features a deer and a wolf together in a pristine white box environment which works to heighten the palpable tension. Cantor received the prestigious Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2011 and is preparing now the subsequent solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. In the last ten years, Cantor

showed his work in numerous private galleries and public institutions around the world. Among them, Le Cedrac d'Ivry sur Seine in France in 2011 and Kunsthalle Nuremberg in Germany in 2010 organized solo shows of his work. Cantor's work is included in prominent public collections such as Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Philadelphia Museum of Art; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; Museum Abteiberg, Monchengladbach, Germany; Magasin 3, Stockholm, Sweden; Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland, as well as in other collections worldwide. Mircea Cantor is represented in Paris by Yvon Lambert Gallery, in Tel Aviv by Dvir Gallery, and in Rome by Magazzino. www.mirceacantor.ro

Museum of the Moving Image is the only institution in the United States that explores the art, industry, and innovation of screen culture in all its forms. Embracing topics that range from nineteenth-century optical toys to the latest Internet developments, it provides insight into every phase of the production, promotion and exhibition of moving images. Engaging an international audience of all ages, Museum of the Moving Image offers a distinctive, highly interactive core exhibition; contemporary and retrospective programs of films from around the world; public discussions with leading figures in film and television; a unique collection; inspiring education programs; stimulating changing exhibitions; and groundbreaking online projects. A major renovation and expansion completed in January 2011 doubled the size of the Museum and added two new theaters, an education center, and new galleries. More information at movingimage.us

The Romanian Cultural Institute in New York (RCINY) aims to promote Romanian culture throughout the U.S. and internationally, and to build sustainable, creative partnerships among American and Romanian cultural organizations. The Institute acts as a catalyst and proponent of initiatives across artistic fields, striving to foster understanding, cultural diplomacy, and scholarly discourse by enriching public perspectives of contemporary Romanian culture. www.icrny.org

The French Cultural Services provides a platform and resources for cultural exchange between French and American artists, intellectuals, curators and arts professionals. It is dedicated to creating new models for international dialogue in the arts and education from French and American perspectives. Based in New York City and in Washington D.C., the Cultural Services' principal fields of action are the arts, literature, cinema, French language programs and higher education. www.frenchculture.org

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High-resolution images are available for download. For access to the online press gallery, please contact Tomoko Kawamoto (tkawamoto@movingimage.us).

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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