

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SINGLE STREAM

NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION, FILMED AT RECYCLING FACILITY, BY PAWEŁ WOJTASIK, TOBY LEE, AND ERNST KAREL, ON VIEW IN MUSEUM LOBBY



SINGLE STREAM, 28 minutes, color/sound. Exhibition view. Photo by Jason Eppink.

Opening reception: Thursday, July 11, 2013, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
On view through November 3, 2013

Astoria, NY, July 10, 2013—Museum of the Moving Image is currently presenting *SINGLE STREAM* (2013), a new large-scale video work by Paweł Wojtasik, Toby Lee, and Ernst Karel. A visual and sonic exploration inside a recycling facility, the video blurs the line between observation and abstraction, plunging the viewer into the steady flow of the plant and capturing the complex processes devised to treat the enormous amount of waste Americans produce every day. *SINGLE STREAM*, which opened on July 3, is on view in the Museum's lobby, as a 50x8-foot-long projection, through November 3, 2013. Since its renovation in 2011, the lobby wall has been a showcase for adventurous video installations and curated exhibits of web art.

The title of the piece refers to the highly effective “single stream” method of recycling in which all types of recyclables are initially gathered together, and sorted later at a specialized materials recovery facility, or MRF. Over the past two decades, single-stream recycling has greatly increased the rate and decreased the costs of recycling.

This installation was organized by Rachael Rakes and Jason Eppink, Associate Curator of Digital Media. "*SINGLE STREAM* is an arresting meditation at an enormous scale. It offers a fascinating window into a world rarely seen," said Eppink.

"The scene inside a single-stream plant depicts a complex ballet of man, machine, and movement, producing sounds and images that are overwhelming, but also unexpectedly beautiful, and even revelatory," said Paweł Wojtasik. "In a space like this, we come face to face with our waste, its magnitude and its consequences."

SINGLE STREAM was shot in a single-stream plant in Charlestown, Massachusetts—the fourth largest MRF in the United States—where hundreds of tons of refuse are sorted and processed every day inside a building the size of an airplane hangar. All sound was recorded on location.

About the artists:

Brooklyn-based filmmaker and video artist **Paweł Wojtasik** (b. 1952 Łódź, Poland) creates poetic reflections on cultures and ecosystems in the form of short video works and large-scale installations. His investigations into the overlooked corners of the environment have led him to pig farms, sewage treatment plants, and wrecking yards. His current project documents workers in Varanasi, India.

Brooklyn-based artist and anthropologist **Toby Lee** (b. 1980, Los Angeles) works across video, performance, installation, and drawing. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and Film and Visual Studies from Harvard University and currently serves as the Director of the Collaborative Studio program at UnionDocs: Center for Documentary Art in Brooklyn, NY.

Cambridge-based **Ernst Karel** (b. 1970, Palo Alto) works between experimental nonfiction sound and electroacoustic music. He composes and performs with location recordings and/or analog electronics, often for multichannel environments. Karel teaches a course in Sonic Ethnography in the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University.

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Download images at <http://www.movingimage.us/about/press/gallery/> (login required)

MUSEUM INFO

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday except for select holiday openings and special programs.

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

noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults (18+); \$9.00 for senior citizens and for students (13+) with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. 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

Membership: 718 777 6877, members@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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