



Jeremy Shaw

Quantification Trilogy

26 January – 12 May 2019

Opening Friday 25 January 2019

Esker Foundation is pleased to present Canadian artist Jeremy Shaw's first solo show in Calgary. The exhibition will include Shaw's three para-fictional short films: *Quickeners* (2014), *Liminals* (2017), and *I Can See Forever* (2018), the latter of which is making its Canadian installation premiere.

This trilogy of thematically entangled works presents marginalized societies of the future and their engagement in transcendental activities as potential tools towards evolution. Spiritual, subcultural, and scientific systems of belief and their accompanying ideologies crystalize around the abilities and limitations of the human form, while Shaw's amplified use of aural and visual effects aspires to incite similar phenomenological responses from the viewer.

In addition to the three films, Shaw's series *Towards Universal Pattern Recognition* presents found archival photos of people in various states of religious, mystical, or technological rapture seen under custom-machined prismatic acrylic. In applying an optical device most commonly

associated with filmic representations of psychedelic experience to documentary recordings of altered states, the works ask one to consider a universality to all transcendental experience: spiritual, hedonistic, technological, and otherwise.

Shaw works in a variety of media to explore altered states and the cultural and scientific practices that aspire to map transcendental experience. Often combining and amplifying strategies of *vérité* filmmaking, conceptual art, music video, esoteric and scientific research, Shaw's works create a post-documentary space in which disparate belief-systems and histories are thrown into an interpretive limbo.

Quantification Trilogy is produced in cooperation with the Kunstverein Hamburg, Germany. An extensive publication will be released in conjunction with the show.

Image credit:

Jeremy Shaw, *Towards Universal Pattern Recognition (Baptism Bayfront Center, 1982)*, 2016. Kaleidoscopic acrylic, chrome, archival black/white photograph. 38.3 x 43.3 x 16 cm. Image courtesy of KÖNIG GALERIE, Berlin and Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

About Esker Foundation

Esker Foundation is the largest free, privately funded, non-commercial contemporary art gallery in Calgary. As a leader in the Calgary arts community, Esker Foundation connects the public to contemporary art through relevant, accessible, and educational exhibitions, programs, and publications. Esker Foundation reflects on current developments in local, regional, and international culture; creates opportunities for public dialogue; and supports the production of ground-breaking new work, ideas, and research. Founded in 2012 by Jim and Susan Hill, Esker Foundation is a new model for institutional relevance, curatorial focus, and audience engagement.

-30-

For high resolution imagery and more information contact:

Jill Henderson, Marketing and Communications

Direct line: 403.930.2499

Email: j.henderson@eskerfoundation.com

www.eskerfoundation.com

Esker Foundation, 4th floor, 1011 9 Avenue S.E., Calgary, AB, Canada