

MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Screenings: James Benning & Peter Hutton

Dates: February 17, 18, and March 7, 2015

In conjunction with the exhibition *James Benning & Peter Hutton: Nature is a Discipline*, Miguel Abreu Gallery is pleased to announce a series of film and video screenings at the gallery's 36 Orchard Street location, curated in conjunction with the artists.

Benning has chosen to screen two of his most recent feature-length works, both showing for the first time in New York. Both are shot on high-definition video, like most of the work the filmmaker has made since 2007. Each represents its own variation on Benning's longstanding interest in the landscape film, as well as the use of editing structures that play with mathematical conceits and the extremes of cinematic duration.

For his screening, Hutton will present three of his most celebrated films, all projected in their original 16mm format. Created from footage shot over four decades, the program showcases the evolution of Hutton's cinematography, drawing on the conventions of street photography, 19th century landscape painting, and maritime art.

Tuesday, February 17, 7pm

natural history

James Benning, 2014, 77 mins, HD video
New York premiere

Made at the invitation of the director of the Museum of Natural History Vienna, *natural history* is a landscape film shot entirely indoors, documenting the offices, storage spaces, and hallways of the institution. "I had complete access to the building for 13 straight days," Benning says. "The editing is based on the first 27 digits of pi: 3.14159265358979323846264338."

Wednesday, February 18, 7pm

Three films by Peter Hutton
Followed by a conversation between Peter Hutton and Ed Halter, the exhibition's curator.

New York Portrait, Chapter 1

Peter Hutton, 1979, 16 minutes, 16mm, b&w, silent
"Hutton's sketchbook of mid-1970s New York, edited in three parts over twelve years, is a chronicle of indelible impressions and an act of urban archeology. The artist evokes the city's delicate rhythms, tonal contrasts, and shifts of scale." - Joshua Siegel, Museum of Modern Art

Lodz Symphony

Peter Hutton, 1991-93, 20 minutes, 16mm, b&w, silent
"I often think this value of my work is not really apparent until a lot of time has passed. When I made *Lodz Symphony*, I said to my Polish friends, 'You know, this film is not going to make any sense to you now, but in ten or fifteen years you may well appreciate that someone actually recorded the atmosphere of the city at this particular time.' Eugène Atget recorded the details of the architecture, the atmosphere, the ambiance of the streets of Paris in his time with loving care. At first, those images didn't seem to have any great value—they were too familiar—but, as time has gone on, they've increased in value. They've become miniature museums." - Peter Hutton, as told to Scott MacDonald

Study of a River

Peter Hutton, 1997, 16 minutes, 16mm, b&w, silent

Views of the Hudson River at winter, shot over a period of two years, depicting the unhurried passage of ships up and down the waterway.

Saturday, March 7, 7pm

BNSF

James Benning, 2013, 193 mins, HD video

New York premiere

“*BNSF* is a HD companion film the 16mm film *RR* (2007). Unlike *RR*, which was shot in 47 different locations throughout the US, it is one 3-plus hour shot in the Mojave Desert just west of Amboy, California, during which time 13 trains pass by.” – James Benning

Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or for visuals, please contact the gallery:

Miguel Abreu Gallery

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Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 10:30AM to 6:30PM and by appointment

Subway: F to East Broadway; B, D to Grand Street; J, M, Z to Delancey / Essex Street