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MEMORIAL ART GALLERY LAUNCHES *Reflections on Place & Culture: Downey, Gower, Kluge*

April 7 – June 18, 2017

Rochester, NY, April 6, 2017 — The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester (MAG) continues the conversation on the art of the moving image through a new exhibition in its “Media Arts Watch” program, *Reflections on Place & Culture: Downey, Gower, Kluge*. “Media Arts Watch” is curated by world-renowned authority on the moving image, John G. Hanhardt, consulting senior curator of media arts for MAG.

Reflections on Place & Culture will run through June 18, 2017 and features the work of three artists: Juan Downey, Terence Gower and Alexander Kluge. These artists work within and against the conventions of documentary film and video, pointing to the genre’s limitations while also posing new ways for using the moving image to represent history and culture.

“This exhibition comprises historical, contemporary, and international works that represent innovative narrative and documentary strategies,” said Mr. Hanhardt. “They critically and creatively reflect on the idea of place and are some of the most influential video artworks to explore how we can represent history and our world today.”

First shown on German television in 1988, Alexander Kluge’s *Changing Time (Quickly)* pairs news images with documentary and musical sound recordings to stage a history of Germany from the late-nineteenth-century to World War II. Shuttling between different types of historical events, *Changing Time* encourages viewers to question what makes an event historically significant.

In *Hard Times and Culture: Part One, Vienna ‘fin-de-siecle,’* Juan Downey creates an alternative television travelogue of the Austrian city, focusing on the social, political, intellectual, and artistic upheavals of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-centuries, including the outbreak of World War I, the emergence of psychoanalysis, and the architectural marvels that line the city’s famed Ringstrasse.

Like Downey, Terence Gower analyzes architecture to understand the culture of a place. Gower’s video, *Ciudad Moderna*, reveals how modern architecture and design function as a cultural fantasy by using clips from the 1968 film, *Despedida de Casada*, to enliven architectural sites from Mexico City and Acapulco.

What is “Media Arts Watch?”

“Media Arts Watch” is a three-year initiative to introduce the art of the moving image into the curatorial program and permanent collection of MAG. Media art is art that explores the technologies and aesthetics of film and video as well as the emerging tools and practices of computers, virtual reality, the internet, software, and mobile devices.

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About John G. Hanhardt

John G. Hanhardt is MAG's consulting senior curator of media arts. Hanhardt began his museum career in the department of film and video at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and from there went to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis to establish its film program and film study collection. From 1974 to 1996 he was curator and head of the film and video department at the Whitney Museum of American Art. He was the senior curator of film and media arts at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from 1996 to 2006. He joined the Smithsonian American Art Museum's staff in 2006, and was a consulting senior curator of film and media arts there until 2016.

As a native of Rochester and University of Rochester alum, Hanhardt was inspired by photography, film, and media arts during frequent visits to the George Eastman Museum and by the programming of the Visual Studies Workshop.

About The Memorial Art Gallery

The Memorial Art Gallery showcases visual art from antiquity to the present day, including an outdoor public Centennial Sculpture Park. In addition to its permanent collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of special exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, after-hours social events, and family activities.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays and First Fridays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: \$14; senior citizens, \$10; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, University of Rochester faculty/staff and students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County. For more information, call 585.276.8900 or visit mag.rochester.edu.

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