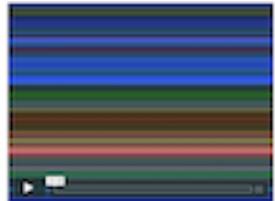


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CONTEM
PORARY
ART GAL
LERIES



Jesper Just



Clinton Watkins



Complaint Choir



Janet Biggs

Press Release

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CROSSTALK

Music as Content in Contemporary Art

Contemporary Art Galleries, Storrs Campus

November 4 – December 14, 2013

WEEK 1

Jesper Just - *No Man Is an Island II* (2004)

WEEK 2

Clinton Watkins, *Landscape Distortions* (2010)

WEEK 3

Complaints Choir: Toyko (2009)

WEEK 4

Janet Biggs, *Fade to White*, 2010

The Contemporary Art Galleries will present **CROSSTALK**, an exhibition that showcases the work of four internationally renowned artists whose video works feature music as fine art content. The title of the exhibition is derived from the British use of the term in reference to conversations or repartee that is engaged in for the benefit of an audience. By working with the themes of music and film in this show, The Contemporary Art Galleries hopes to inspire dialogue across the arts.

CROSSTALK is comprised of four one-week solo exhibitions; each week will feature one single-channel video, rotating between Jesper Just, Clinton Watkins, the Complaint Choir of Tokyo and Janet Biggs.

The Galleries have been converted into a movie theater, and its doors remain open 24-7 for the duration of the exhibition, offering some artistic escapism to students during a very stressful time of the year.

About the artists:

Jesper Just was born in Denmark and studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He works exclusively in film, and since 2003 has used digital video as his format. Just's work explores and challenges traditional representations of masculinity

in Hollywood films. Music plays a prominent role in his videos, and each soundtrack draws on a breadth of inspiration ranging from American doo-wop and classical opera to the Finnish Men's Screaming Choir. Just currently lives and works in New York City. The Guggenheim museum, the Tate Modern and many other institutions collect his work. In 2013, he represented Denmark at the Venice Biennial.

Janet Biggs is known primarily for her work in video and performance. She lives and works in New York City. She has captured such events as speeding motor on the Bonneville salt flats, horses galloping on treadmills, Olympic synchronized swimmers in their attempts to defy gravity, and kayaks performing a synchronized ballet in Arctic waters. Her work has been exhibited at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum in Ithaca, NY, the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, NY, The Rhode Island School of Design Museum in Providence, RI, and many others.

Clinton Watkins, since 1994, has produced artwork that investigates the effects of sonic and visual information on an audience. The visual and sound base of his work focuses on the characteristics, structures, phenomena, and process of sonic and visual material through the exploration of repetition, distortion, color, duration and form via a minimalist sensibility. Watkins is also a practicing musician who regularly produces and performs as a solo artist and collaboratively. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Delta*, New Zealand In-Flight Entertainment System; *Transcode*, Wellington City Art Gallery/Engine Room, Massey University; *Selection*, Starkwhite Gallery.

Complaint Choir Tokyo In the Finnish vocabulary there is an expression called "Valituskuoro." It means "Complaints Choir," and it is used to describe situations where a lot of people are complaining simultaneously. One clever couple from Helsinki sought out to make the expression a reality. Realizing that complaining is a universal phenomenon they decided to organize choirs in cities around the world. To date, Complaints Choirs have been staged in Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg, Chicago, Singapore, Copenhagen, Tokyo and Teutonia. All the performances are recorded. They are presented as powerful video installations in art exhibitions and on web sites.



