

K. IMPERIAL FINE ART

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LAWRENCE JORDAN

Prodigies of Physical Phenomena

April 4th through April 30th, 2013

Artist Reception: Saturday April 6, 3-5 pm.

K. Imperial Fine Art is pleased to announce *Prodigies of Physical Phenomena*, an exhibition by renown experimental filmmaker and artist Lawrence Jordan (b. 1934, Denver). Jordan's first solo exhibit with K. Imperial will showcase new collages and a selection of dioramas made between 1965 and 2004.

Jordan's collages and dioramas are playful juxtapositions of two and three dimensions that create strangely seductive narratives and intimate compositions referencing his interest in transformations and the mythic underworld. P. Adams Sitney, in his feature on Jordan for *Artforum* in 2009, calls Jordan one of the last living artists who still wears the "mask of the mystic, or magus".¹ Sitney explains that the guise of the magician as artist, once prevalent in the American avant-garde- has nearly disappeared from the cultural view- he notes that the last 3 artists who wear this 'mask' were Jordan Belson (since deceased), Kenneth Anger and Lawrence Jordan.

In looking back at Jordan's history of nearly 60 years of film and art making, we discover a strong poetic consistency for the enigmatic. The diorama boxes that Jordan learned to make with art-world darling and recluse, Joseph Cornell, in the summer he lived with him in 1965—echo the investigations of his mentor — yet also emphasize their own lyrical explorations, more concerned with the unanswerable questions of the cosmos and the spirit world than the inner secrets of fantasy.

Lawrence Jordan clarifies his investigations as *alchemic*, rather than magical. In his interview in *Animation Journal* he explains: "You know, Harry [Smith] and Kenneth Anger were both practicing magicians, but I'm not a practicing magician. I'm a practicing alchemist . . . I don't think the practicing alchemists ever had a codified system. Every one of them were off on their own kick. They had imagery that was like a common language and I use that language . . . Alchemy and constructionism are two ways of saying that you take the things laying around you as detritus, as litter, and you make something that is formal art out of it . . . I've been manipulating old imagery with new technology as part of my alchemy."² It is in this physical reuse of materials and imagery—inherent to the practice of collage, that Jordan finds his discourse.

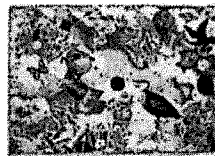
Jordan has given extensive oral history sessions for The Smithsonian (with Paul Karlstrom), and at The Getty Research Center, Los Angeles. He is regarded as one of the icons of the Beat Movement, and his history and influence on younger artists is extensive. He is the former founding chair of the film department at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he taught over decades. Jordan's history and influence in the Bay Area are extensive. His friends, conspirators and collaborators include the painter Jess and his partner Robert Duncan, Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Stan Brakhage, Christopher MacClaine, Michael and Joanna McClure and Jay DeFeo; however, his reach and recognition are not limited to a local artworld scene, but are extended to avant-garde cinema globally.

Jordan's cutout collage animations have screened at museums and festivals worldwide. His diorama boxes and collages have exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery –Smithsonian Institution, Whitney Museum of American Art, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art in Logan, Utah, Ulrich Museum of Art in Wichita, Kansas, Berkeley Art Museum, Gray Art Gallery, in New York, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, de Saisett Museum at Santa Clara University, Paule Anglim Gallery, Catherine Clark Gallery and Gallery Extraña in Berkeley. Jordan's diorama boxes and collages are in the permanent collection of the di Rosa Preserve Museum, Santa Rosa, California as well as in many private collections. Jordan lives and works in Petaluma, California.

LAWRENCE JORDAN: *Prodigies of Physical Phenomena* is curated by Aimee Friberg. Jordan's work will be included in *An Opening of the Field: Jess, Robert Duncan and Their Circle*, which opens at the Crocker Museum on June 9th.



Hazards of Vision
(Graffiti Series)
Original Paper Collage
30.5 "x 39" (framed), 2011



While She Watches
Her Blue Heaven Awaken
Original Paper Collage
27 "x 35" (framed), 2011



Prodigies
Original Paper Collage
27 "x 37", 2012



Alaska Down
Original Paper Collage
(*Graffiti Series*)
36 "x 24" (framed), 2011



Untitled (Oculus)
Original Paper Collage
19 "x 25.75", 2012



A Heavenly Time
Original Paper Collage
34 "x 28.5", 2012



Moon Bird Sanctuary
Mixed Media Diorama
24 "x 11"x 4.25", 1995



Wheel Walker
Mixed Media Diorama
7.5 "x 10.5"x 3.5", 1983



*Banners Of The Night -
Rocking Horse Winner*
(*To D.H. Lawrence*)
Mixed Media Diorama
16.5 "x 16.5"x 4", 2000



Ignus Electrici
Mixed Media Diorama
15.5 "x 11"x 4.5, 1964



White Light of Love
Mixed Media Diorama
16.5 "x 16.5"x 4", 2001



Herr Stork Arrives
Mixed Media Diorama
22 "x 18"x 3.5, 2003



Her Scales of Fate
Mixed Media Diorama
15.5 "x 12"x 4.5, 2000