

**REEL ARTISTS
FILM FESTIVAL**
FEB 24-28 2010

presented by **CANADIAN ART
Foundation**

Media Release

Journey through the World of Visual Art with the Reel Artists Film Festival

The 2010 Canadian Art Reel Artists Film Festival gives audiences a look inside the lives and work of leading **art world figures** from **seven countries** including Japan, Poland, Switzerland and Nigeria with **WORLD, CANADIAN and TORONTO** premieres. Plus: This year's opening night screening is the **CANADIAN** premiere of *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child*, Tamra Davis' definitive story of the legendary artist.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 25, 2010: From February 24 – 28, 2010, in Toronto, the seventh annual Canadian Art Reel Artists Film Festival showcases **13 documentary films** on the world's top art figures. Throughout the festival, **specialty invited artists, writers, curators and directors** will introduce the films and present post-screening conversations.

The festival will once again host a **FREE day of films for students** on Friday, February 26, 2010. The films are the North American premiere of *Antony Gormley and the 4th Plinth* (2009), on the British sculptor's highly controversial live artwork in London's Trafalgar Square, introduced by *Canadian Art* editor Richard Rhodes. The Toronto premiere of *Pretend Not to See Me* (2009) showcases several of **Colette Urban's** performances in Newfoundland. The screening will feature a special performance by the artist, followed by a conversation with curator Barbara Fischer, director Katherine Knight and the artist. The Toronto premiere of *Traveling with Yoshitomo Nara* (2007) accompanies the acclaimed Japanese painter on an international road trip. This film will be introduced by Leah Sandals, associate editor of *Canadianart.ca*.

Other festival highlights include the **WORLD** premiere of *Fold, Crumple, Crush: The Art of El Anatsui*, about the first black African artist to achieve the highest levels of world acclaim, introduced by the film's director and founder of the Museum for African Art in New York, Susan Vogel, and the **CANADIAN** premiere of *Two Artists: Andrea Zittel and Monika Sosnowka 1:1*, introduced by artist and curator An Te Liu. The festival also presents several **TORONTO** premieres: Painter Joanne Tod introduces a film on the profoundly influential American artist **Chuck Close**; a film on legendary Canadian painter **Alex Colville** will be introduced by artist John Dickson; *Louise Bourgeois: The Spider, the Mistress and the Tangerine* will be introduced by acclaimed author Katherine Govier; *Si Sullivan m'était conté*, about legendary Quebec artist **Françoise Sullivan**, will be introduced by David Moos, curator of contemporary art at the Art Gallery of Ontario; a film on Swiss art dealer and founder of Art Basel **Ernst Beyeler** will be introduced by Samuel Keller, head of the Beyeler Foundation; and a film that captures the creative process of the polka-dot loving, Japanese avant-garde artist **Yayoi Kusama** will be introduced by prizewinning author Kerri Sakamoto.

Plus: Meet the artist whose work defined, electrified and challenged an era!

The Reel Artists Film Festival presents—direct from Art Basel Miami and the Sundance Film Festival—the CANADIAN premiere of *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child*, a documentary by filmmaker Tamra Davis that tells the real story of legendary painter Jean-Michel Basquiat. The *New York Times* calls it “a profoundly moving testament to an artist who really could not do anything but make paintings, to the gritty New York of the early ’80s and to the creative community that helped foster Basquiat’s genius.”

“We are delighted to offer audiences films on visual art and artists that effectively convey the significance of today’s most inspiring artistic talents,” says festival organizer and Canadian Art Foundation executive director Ann Webb. “By offering an intimate glimpse into the lives of important art world figures from Canada and abroad, the Reel Artists Film Festival provides an accessible point of entry for audiences to learn about contemporary art.”

The festival launches on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, with an opening night screening and celebration at the Royal Conservatory, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto. The Canadian premiere of *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child* will screen at 7 pm sharp in Koerner Hall. Critic Sarah Milroy will introduce the screening with one of the film’s producers, David Koh.

This screening will be followed by a celebration. Tickets are \$175 in advance only. Phone (416) 368-8854 ext. 102 or go to canadianart.ca/raff/tickets to order.

All other screenings take place at the Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Avenue (at Bloor Street), Toronto. General admission tickets are \$10 in advance; festival passes are \$65 in advance. Rush tickets, if available, are \$12 (\$7 for students/seniors with valid ID) 15 minutes prior to each screening. Order tickets online at canadianart.ca/raff/tickets or phone (416) 368-8854 ext. 102.

Advance screening copies of festival films are available to the media. Interviews are available with numerous directors and with **Ann Webb**, festival organizer and executive director of the Canadian Art Foundation.

The Canadian Art Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization established to foster support of the visual arts in Canada. The foundation unites art, ideas and people from coast to coast through a diverse array of national and international programs and the publication of *Canadian Art*, Canada’s most widely read visual arts magazine.

Canadian Art

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Wednesday, February 24 – Sunday, February 28, 2010
canadianart.ca/raff

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The Canadian Art Foundation extends a sincere thanks to its festival sponsors:
The Hal Jackman Foundation; Partners in Art; Toronto Dominion Bank; Kim Bozak and Phil Deck; The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation; The Toronto Arts Council; The PJ Phelan Sailing Foundation; and Filigree Design/Joanne Thring. Thanks also go to our media partners Bravo!, the *National Post* and *NOW*. With special thanks to Vtape and to our venue partner, the Al Green Theatre at Miles Nadal JCC.