

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE
KENNETH ANGER

February 22 through September 14, 2009.

Opening Day Celebration: February 22, 2009, 12-6 PM.

(Long Island City, NY — February 9, 2009) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents *Kenneth Anger*, the first major survey of the filmmaker's body of work at a U.S. museum in over a decade. Making films since 1947, Anger is considered internationally as a pioneering and influential force in avant-garde cinema. His ground breaking films have inspired the likes of Martin Scorsese, Gus Van Sant, and Guy Maddin. The exhibition will focus primarily on Anger's early iconic works including *Fireworks* (1947), *Puce Moment* (1949), *Eaux D'Artifice* (1953), *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954 – 66), *Scorpio Rising* (1963), *Kustom Kar Kommandos* (1964 – 65), *Invocation of my Demon Brother* (1969) and *Lucifer Rising* (1970 – 81). The exhibition is presented in the 2nd floor Kunsthalle.

Kenneth Anger's work constitutes a radical critique of Hollywood, often evoking and referencing pop icons within occult settings and depicting youth counterculture in the midst of violence and eroticism. Anger does not use a narrative-based style, but rather lyrically explores themes of ritualistic transformation and transfiguration. His films are imbued with a baroque splendor stemming from the heightened sensuality of his opulent colors and imagery. They are often accompanied by a haunting soundtrack, composed by renowned musicians such as Mick Jagger and Bobby Beausoleil.

The exhibition design, consisting primarily of red and silver vinyl partitions and wall and floor coverings, is evocative of the atmosphere of Anger's films. It extends the sumptuous settings that are depicted on screen into the exhibition space, creating an immersive viewing experience..

Kenneth Anger (b. 1927, Santa Monica, California) has been creating films since the 1940s with his first being *Who Has Been Rocking My Dreamboat* (1941). Anger's six-decade-long oeuvre includes most notably *Fireworks* (1947), *Puce Moment* (1949), *Eaux d'artifice* (1953), *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954-66), *Scorpio Rising* (1963), *Kustom Kar Kommandos* (1965), *Invocation of My Demon Brother* (1969), *Lucifer Rising* (1970-81)), *Rabbit's Moon* (1950-79), *Mouse Heaven* (2004), *Elliot's Suicide* (2004), and the recent *Ich Will!* (2008) and *Foreplay* (2008). He also performs as Technicolor Skull with Brian Butler.

Kenneth Anger is organized by Susanne Pfeffer, Curator at KW Institute for Contemporary Art/ P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center Curatorial Advisor with Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator, Department of Media, The Museum of Modern Art/Chief Curatorial Advisor, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center.

The exhibition is made possible by the Wallis Annenberg Fund for Innovation in Contemporary Art and by Philip E. Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons.

Additional support is provided by The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Also on view: *Yael Bartana* through May 4, 2009 and *Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool* through October 2009.

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Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Additional funding is provided by individuals, foundations, and corporate contributions.

Exhibitions at P.S.1 are made possible by the Annual Exhibition Fund with support from Sheldrake Organization, The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art in honor of Alanna Heiss, Agnes Gund, Lawton W. Fitt and James I. McLaren Foundation, Kathy and Richard S. Fuld, Jr., Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis, Peter Norton and the Peter Norton Family Foundation, Anna Marie and Robert F. Shapiro, Michel Zaleski, Sydnie Lansing, Philip E. Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, and David Teiger, with additional funding from Emilio Ambasz, John Comfort, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman, Donald L. Byrant, Jr., Susan G. Jacoby, Clarissa Alcock Bronfman, Dennis W. LaBarre, Ena Swansea, E. William Judson, *Men's Vogue*, Sarah-Ann and Werner H. Kramarsky, A NY Thing, LLC, Louise Bourgeois Trust, John V. Cioffi, Enzo Viscusi, and Douglas S. Cramer.

Time Out New York is the official print partner of exhibitions and public programs at P.S.1.

Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.psl.org • www.moma.org

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