ANTHONY McCALL 27 JUN 2024 – 27 APR 2025

LARGE PRINT GUIDE



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ROOM 1

ROOM 1: PHOTOGRAPHS, WORKS ON PAPER, INTRODUCTION TEXT

[Wall Text]

Step inside these projections of light to interact with and become part of the artwork. Anthony McCall's 'solid light' artworks blur the boundaries between cinema, sculpture and drawing. Beams of projected light slowly trace the outlines of shapes, creating sculpted, three-dimensional chambers cutting through a misty haze.

In this first room you can see detailed drawings from which McCall develops his 'solid light' installations. There are also photographs of his experiments with light and performance.

Landscape for Fire 1973, one of the artist's early films, is screened in room 2. At this time, McCall was working in the UK. The film documents a short performance in which McCall lights small fires at dusk in a precise geometric grid.

Four immersive artworks fill the main room. McCall made his first 'solid light' work **Line Describing a Cone** in New York in 1973, using simple animation techniques. He first showed the work in the loft-spaces and art venues of the New York and London avant-garde film world. The projection cut through the dust and cigarette smoke that filled those spaces, enabling it to be seen in three dimensions. McCall returned to the series in 2003 following the invention of digital projectors, and the haze machine which produces a thin non-toxic mist, allowing viewers to see the light beams in modern smoke-free spaces.

The artist's more recent works expand the 'solid light' format. **Doubling Back** 2003 'folds in upon itself'; the evolving beams of **Face to Face** 2013 are projected in two directions at once, while **Split Second Mirror I** 2018 uses the refraction of light to conjure uncanny forms for visitors to explore.

Anthony McCall (born in the UK in 1946) is a key figure in contemporary art practice. He describes his work as 'existing in the space where cinema, sculpture and drawing overlap'. McCall's 'solid light' works have influenced many subsequent artists working with film and installation.

[Image credit]

Anthony McCall working on a 16mm Bell and Howell animation camera stand during the shooting of the 'solid light' work **Cone of Variable Volume** 1974 Photograph, digital print on vinyl Photograph by George Griffin Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles

Scan here to view the exhibition texts online



Split Second Mirror I

2018

Study for installation Graphite and photocopy on paper, facsimile printed 2024

Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles X91046

Notebook 66 (1973.07.10–1973.08.21)

1973

Animation production study detailing concept for **Line Describing a Cone** 1973 Ink, graphite, collage on paper

Courtesy of the artist X89965

Doubling Back

2017 Footprints at approximately 100 second intervals 9 prints, UV-cured archival pigment on Dibond printed 2024

Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles X89060

Four Projected Movements

1975 Facsimilies of wax pencil on paper drawings, printed 2024

Smoke Screen III

2017

Photograph, gelatin silver print mounted on museum board and aluminium, printed 2024

Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles X89057

Landscape for Fire

1972

Photograph by Carolee Schneemann Photograph, gelatin silver print mounted on museum board and aluminium, printed 2024

Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles X89055

Room with Altered Window

1973 Photograph, gelatin silver print mounted on museum board and aluminium, printed 2024

ROOM 2

ROOM 2: LANDSCAPE FOR FIRE

Landscape for Fire

1972 Film, 16mm, projection, digitised with audio 7 minutes

ROOM 3

ROOM 3: SOLID LIGHT WORKS

Line Describing a Cone

1973 Film, 16mm, projection, digitised 30 minutes

Tate. Purchased 2005 T12031

Doubling Back

2003 Digital video projection 30-minute cycle

Face to Face IV

2013 Two digital video projections and double-sided projection screens 24-minute cycle

Courtesy of the artist, Sprüth Magers, and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles X89063

Split-Second (Mirror) I

2018 Mirror, digital video projection 16-minute cycle