



Thorsten Knaub • 29E Fieldgate Mansions • London E1 1JS • email: mail@thorstenknaub.com

COUNTERWEIGHT

CHRIS BURDEN'S
THE FLYING STEAMROLLER

a film by Thorsten Knaub

INFORMATION/DOCUMENTATION



PRESS RELEASE

THORSTEN KNAUB: COUNTERWEIGHT (29 min)

SCREENING: Tuesday 6 November, 6-9pm (screenings at 7.00 & 8.00)

Counterweight is a short film by London-based German artist, Thorsten Knaub, depicting the South London Gallery's presentation of Chris Burden's *The Flying Steamroller*, last October. Commissioned by the SLG to document this extraordinary project, Knaub's film cleverly weaves together footage of the installation and exhibition of Burden's work at Chelsea College of Art Parade Ground, opposite Tate Britain.

Concepts of balance, weight, speed and movement, so important to Burden's installation, were used as a basis for the construction of the film itself. Using close-up cinematography, on-location sound and rhythmically paced editing, Knaub visually and sonically re-presents an unfolding narrative of the construction and operation of *The Flying Steamroller*.

Thorsten Knaub's 29 minute film, *Counterweight* will be screened hourly at the SLG at 7.00pm and 8.00pm on Tuesday 6 November 2007.

DVD Edition: The screening coincides with the publication of a limited edition (250) DVD package of the film. The inlay includes a transcript of an interview with Chris Burden conducted by Thorsten Knaub at the time of making the film. The DVD will be on sale at the screening.

Thorsten Knaub is an artist working with video, sound, performance and drawing often using digital processes. His practice often concerns itself with ideas around how technology affects society as well as the artist and his processes.

Previous works include the *The Cinema Machine* where 100 classic feature films were each retimed to 60-second length, and recently exhibited at the Outpost Gallery in Norwich and a *GPS Diary*, an online archive recording the daily movements of the artist during a year-long period using the Global Positioning System. Recent projects include a screening at Rozamira Festival in Moscow in September and two new GPS interventions, commissioned by the Joan Miró Foundation in Mallorca, Spain for the exhibition *Metalandscapes* in October 2007.

Knaub was born in Erlangen, Germany, 1967. After studying for a BA in Fine Art at Byam Shaw 1994-97, he completed a Masters in Fine Art Media at the Slade School of Art in 1999. Since then he has exhibited his work in the UK, Australia, Canada, USA and various European countries. He lives and works in London.

The South London Gallery receives ongoing support from:



Visitor information

South London Gallery

65 Peckham Road

London SE5 8UH

Gallery open Tuesday – Sunday 12-6pm. Closed Mondays.

24 hour recorded information T. 020 7703 9799

General enquiries T. 020 7703 6120

SMS. 07981 007 845

mail@southlondongallery.org

www.southlondongallery.org

Tube: Victoria or Oval then bus 36/436 towards Lewisham/New Cross

Or London Bridge then bus 343 to Southampton Way

Or Elephant & Castle then bus 171/12

Rail: Peckham Rye, 10 mins walk to the SLG

Limited free parking in adjacent side streets

Press information (not for publication) Sangeeta Sathe T. 020 7703 6120
or sangeeta@southlondongallery.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

The South London Gallery shows the work of mid-career British artists, and emerging and established international artists, in an annual programme of contemporary art exhibitions, live art and off-site projects complemented by workshops, events, artists' talks and outreach projects. The SLG became an independent public gallery in 2003.

South London Gallery

FREE 020 7703 9799;

www.southlondongallery.org. 65, Peckham Rd, SE5 8UH. ☉ Victoria.

Tuesday 6

7.00, 8.00: **Counterweight** (Thorsten Knaub, 2007, GB) Documentary. 29 mins.

A fascinating document on the building of last year's amazing gallery project, 'The Flying Steamroller'. Utilising a simple but accurate counterweight system, American performance artist Chris Burden's bright yellow steamroller really did fly. Seen in the flesh, it must have been a truly mesmerising experience. Knaub's wordless documentary does the outside installation great justice by filming the building process close up – bolts being tightened, panning shots of various metals, etc – before finally pulling back to let us see the final result. The great 48-ton beast rises almost magically into the air and all you hear is the sound of silence. Fabulous. (DA)



'Counterweight' Installation view, South London Gallery. 6th November 2007



'Chris Burden in Conversation' – an interview by Thorsten Knaub
Installation view, South London Gallery. 6th November 2007