



SHOW & TELL / WOJCIECH BĄKOWSKI: SOLILOQUIES

"This is the first New York retrospective of Polish visual artist, musician, and poet Wojciech Bąkowski, whose camera-less films and animated video works explore the disturbance, absurdity, and pathos of human existence. Bąkowski's dry but lyrical and, at times, grotesquely humorous monologues bring to light the ways in which we struggle to perceive reality. He reacts to his surroundings without evaluating them, but describes his inner landscape – the states of his thought and spirit. His work employs minimalist but laborious means of production, and takes on Optical-kinetic Art abstraction: moving patterns, warping geometric forms, animated objects, and reversible perspectives. Cellphones, clocks, magnetic tapes, cassette recorders, and trains become distorted, tyrannical noises that incisively permeate the private space. The austerity of a Bauhaus and Vkhutemas (the Soviet-era art and technical school) approach to aesthetic and socio-economic design and intellectualism pervades Bąkowski's 'degenerate art.' The lack of emotion and intonation in his voice, the pauses, and the inexorable image-sound repetitions are doomed signs of metaphysical and political fate. With dismayed breath, he hopes for the creation of a new world built upon social interconnectivity, and the essential role of memory. The program combines a representative selection of his collage-films, which emphasize boredom as a transgressive attitude, and of his SPOKEN MOVIE series—Moholy-Nagy-like videos that represent personal experiences at the edge of a mental space where light and darkness collide." –Mónica Savirón

Organized in partnership with the Ann Arbor Film Festival, the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, and the Museum of the Moving Image, and curated by Mónica Savirón. Special thanks to the Polish Cultural Institute New York, Audio Visual Arts (AVA), and Bureau.

Wojciech Bąkowski will appear alongside curator Mónica Savirón, and Łukasz Mojsak of the FilMOTEKA Muzeum, Warsaw.

EXERCISES FOR TRUE FRIENDS 2011, 14.5 min, digital, b&w. North American premiere.
SPOKEN MOVIE 4 2009, 12.5 min, 35mm-to-digital, b&w. North American premiere.
CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAY 2013, 9 min, digital, b&w. New York premiere.
ARE YOU GOING WITH ME? 2007, 13 min, 35mm-to-digital. North American premiere.
LOVE 2009, 5 min, digital. New York premiere.
SPOKEN MOVIE 2 2008, 8 min, 35mm-to-digital. New York premiere.
FEAR 2005, 4 min, 35mm-to-digital, b&w. New York premiere.
SPOKEN MOVIE 6 2011, 6 min, digital, b&w. North American premiere.
MAKING NEW WORLDS INSTEAD OF FORGETTING ABOUT IT 2010, 5.5 min, digital, b&w

Total running time: ca. 80 min.
–Thurs, April 2, 2015, at 7:30.

Screenings of Bąkowski's most recent work will take place at the Museum of the Moving Image: Friday April 3, at 5pm; Saturday April 4, at 2pm; and Sunday April 5, at 2pm.