

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
August 1996

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## THE KEN JACOBS NERVOUS SYSTEM

*Twelve Live Performances by the Filmmaker,  
Including New York Premieres of Two New Works:  
Coupling (1996) and From Muybridge to Brooklyn Bridge (1996)*

**September 20-22, 27-29, 1996**

Cinematic pioneer Ken Jacobs will give twelve live performances of his unique work at The Museum of Modern Art. The series, **THE KEN JACOBS NERVOUS SYSTEM**, will run on consecutive weekends: September 20-22 and 27-29.

For more than forty years, film artist Ken Jacobs has explored the cinematic experience in unfailingly innovative ways. His lifelong project has been the aesthetic, social, and physiological critique of projected images—images that by turns lull or assault the viewer as the artist manipulates them. Jacobs investigates the rarely examined territory between 2-D and 3-D in his ambitious Nervous System pieces, two of which will receive New York premieres.

In the Nervous System performances, the visual detail and historical and social significance of Jacobs's found footage is richly observed through the filmmaker's skill as projectionist-performer. Jacobs has invented a specially designed system of two analytic stop-motion projectors, equipped with a spinning exterior shutter. Identical films are projected slightly asynchronously, creating stereoscopic effects that alter conventional perceptions of space and time. Jacobs has described the hypnotic, strobeflike eruption as "the tremorous relationship of stills, producing scenes of uncanny movement and depth."

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"The Nervous System brings a pair of stop-motion film projectors into a kind of congress," Jacobs says. How the machines respond to each other and what issues forth is determined by hairline-precise shifts of alignment orchestrated by Jacobs as the projectionist-performer. Frames are held, arrested in their respective paths of light, as the spinning exterior shutter alternates and melds the cast images, producing impossible changes, both subtle and violent.

Ken Jacobs' Nervous System film performances include *XCXHXEXRXXIXEXSX* (1980), *Bitemporal Vision: The Sea* (1994), *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (A Flicker of Life)* (1995), and *Loco Motion* (1996). Also performed are a Magic Lantern work entitled *Chronometer* (1990), and the New York premieres of *Coupling* (1996) and *From Muybridge to Brooklyn Bridge* (1996), which includes two new 35mm films, *The Georgetown Loop* (1905/1995) and *Disorient Express* (1905/1995).

**THE KEN JACOBS NERVOUS SYSTEM** was organized for the Museum by Jytte Jensen, Assistant Curator, and Joshua Siegel, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video.

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For more press information or photographs, please call Graham Leggat, Film and Video Press Representative, 212/708-9752.