

An Educators' Resource for:

Joachim Koester
*In the Face of
Overwhelming Forces*

28 January –
26 March 2017



● Joachim Koester

In the Face of Overwhelming Forces

Joachim Koester works in a variety of media and formats: film, photography and sound, often in immersive installations. His exhibitions are proposed as scenographies within which audiences can discover the wide-ranging fascinations and obsessions that are the starting point for each work.

In the Face of Overwhelming Forces connects all the galleries with works comprising 16mm film projection, digital video, photography and audio. Collectively, they span the last 12 years of his practice, revealing wide-ranging fascinations held together by a persistent enquiry into the boundaries of apparent reality and a quest to reveal hidden aspects of perception.

Joachim Koester (b.1962, Copenhagen) lives and works between New York and Copenhagen. He studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and has exhibited widely, with solo shows at Turner Contemporary, Margate (2016); Forum Eugénio de Almeida, Evora, Portugal (2015); Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland (2014) and Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013) among the most recent.

Suggested Tour

“Just strolling through the spaces might be enough for a visitor to get a sense of what is going on. I call this ‘inhaling the show’ – perceiving it through the body.” – Koester

● Central Space

Joachim Koester is interested in creating immersive environments and displaying the same subject through different formats. As you enter the Central Space there is a series of photographic works titled *Mantis* and the film *Ghost Mantis* to the left.

Think about how you feel in this space.

- As the first room in the exhibition, how does this make you feel?
- How are your different senses experiencing the space? What can you smell, hear and see?
- What do you expect to see or do in the other galleries?

● Gallery 1

The Place of Dead Roads explores the themes of the Wild West. Four cowboy-esque figures act-out a choreographed duel, complete with the ritualised gestures of pacing and drawing guns.

Think about movement and meaning.

- What are the people doing? Are they dancing?
- What does the way they move tell you about their character and how they are feeling?
- How important is gender to the way the characters move or the way they are perceived?

● Gallery 2

Maybe this act, this work, this thing is set in the year 1910. A group of vaudeville actors are devising a new routine in a run-down theatre. Stirred by the invention of a new cinematic apparatus, they are attempting to transform themselves into a film machine.

Think about future technologies.

- What might they look like?
- What would they do?
- How would you use them?

● Gallery 3

This gallery contains a series of audio works. Each recording is a meditative self-hypnosis which takes the listener on a journey to an imaginary place.

Before you put on a pair of headphones and start your journey, use your imagination to create an avatar* that you will embody for the duration of the journey.

- Will your avatar be a human or an animal?
- What does your avatar look like? Can you describe its features?
- What objects would your avatar take on this journey?

*Avatar: an icon or figure representing a particular person, often used in video and computer games.

Activities

• Archive of Gestures

In pairs, think of a place from your past. Recall one memory in that place and an associated feeling or emotion. Create a gesture to represent the place, the memory and the emotion. Combine the three gestures and perform them to one another. This is the start of your archive of gestures.

• Mimic Mechanic Movement

In Gallery 3, Koester uses an old 16mm analogue projector to display his work *Maybe one must begin with some particular places*. Taking inspiration from the film displayed in Gallery 2, work in small groups to build your own projector, using your bodies as your only material. Mimic the mechanic movement; become whirring cogs, wheels, spinning film reels, and quivering electricity.



Cover: Joachim Koester
The Place of Dead Roads, 2013 (film still)
Courtesy the artist and Jan Mot

Planning your visit

Camden Arts Centre's schools programme has artists and processes at its heart. Offering practical, experimental and fun entry points to the exhibitions, our offer includes a range of resources and activities for educators and school groups including tours, artist-led workshops, and self-led visits.

For further information on our education programme please visit our website or contact Livvy Murdoch: livvy.murdoch@camdenartscentre.org / +44 (0)20 7472 5517

Access

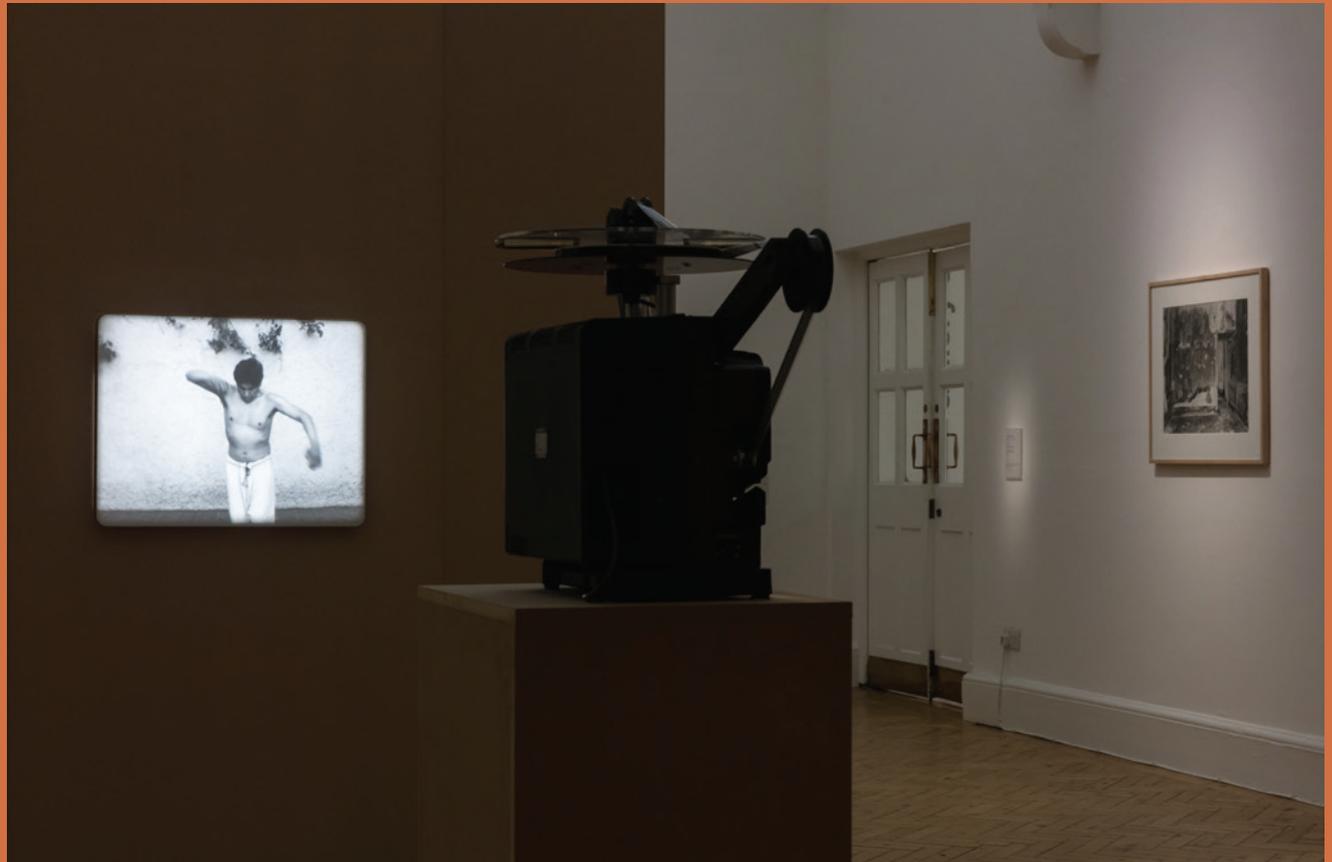
Disabled parking is available for disabled visitors. Please telephone the bookshop on +44 (0)20 7472 5500 to book this space. Please contact us if you have any additional access requirements.

Keep in Touch

Join the Educators' Information mailing list via our website for regular updates and resources. Photography of the exhibition is permitted and we encourage you to share images of your activities using #CACeducation #joachimkoester #overwhelmingforces

Blogs

CAC Education Blog: camdenartscentre.tumblr.com



Installation view of Joachim Koester: *In the Face of Overwhelming Forces* at Camden Arts Centre, 2017
Photo: Mark Blower