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Mark Lewis

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Mark Lewis, Cold Morning (2009)
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Mark Lewis, Cold Morning (2009)

Single screen projection, 7 minutes 35 seconds, HD video.

Film Still courtesy the artist/Monte Clark Gallery(Vancouver)/Clark & Faria(Toronto)/galerie serge le borgne (Paris).

Commissioned by the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, Canada. Mark Lewis Studio Inc. in co-production with the National Film Board of Canada.

Images 5 - 6

Mark Lewis, Backstory (2009), Single screen projection, 39 minutes, 35mm and 4K transferred to 2K

Film Still courtesy the artist/Monte Clark Gallery (Vancouver)/Clark & Faria (Toronto)/galerie serge le borgne (Paris).

Co-Production Partners: Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven), The Channel 4 British Documentary Foundation (London), Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Germany), Galerie Serge Le Borgne (Paris), Monte Clark Gallery (Vancouver), Clark & Faria (Toronto), Le Grand Café

Mark Lewis is one of Canada's most renowned and internationally acclaimed artists working in film-based media (digital and analog), and photography. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1958, and has worked most of his life in Toronto and in Vancouver. He currently lives and works in London, England. Starting out as a photographer, Mark Lewis attended Harrow College of Art (London) and the Polytechnic of Central London, and began making films in the mid 1990s. He has had major solo museum exhibitions all over the world, including: the Vancouver Art Gallery, Hamburger Kunstverein, Musée d'art moderne (Luxembourg), BFI Southbank (London) and the National Museum of Contemporary Art (Bucharest, Romania), and in 2007 presented at PS1 as part of the International Projects Series. His work is in many prestigious museum collections including the National Gallery of Canada, Museum of Modern Art New York, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, and the Centre Pompidou (Paris).

Mark Lewis is co-founder and co-editor, with Charles Esche, of Afterall— a research and publishing organisation based at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London. He is a founding and co-editor—of Afterall Journal, and the series editor of the One Work, a series of books, published by Afterall Books that examine important single modern and contemporary works of art. Recent titles in the series include Andy Warhol: Blow Job by Peter Gidal and Alighiero e Boetti: Mappa by Luca Cerizza. Afterall also publish a series of readers and recently co-produced Art and the Moving Image with Tate Publishing. Mark Lewis is a Research Professor at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of Arts London. Mark is represented by Monte Clark Gallery (Vancouver), Clark & Faria Gallery (Toronto) and Galerie Serge le Borgne (Paris)

Mark Lewis' project for the Canada Pavilion in Venice

Mark Lewis' project for the Canada Pavilion in Venice is comprised of several short, silent films under the title Cold Morning. His works will include documentary and rear projection-based films. Invented in the early 20th century, rear projection consisted of combining staged events filmed in a studio (the foreground action) with documentary footage or reels of set locations (the background locations). A peculiarly modern form of montage, it allowed filmmakers to produce films with exotic backdrops normally too costly for film production. Mark Lewis' work utilizes the technique of rear projection in a newly vitalized exploration of the history of film, with a special interest in the architecture of modernity, including its utopian dimension, and the complexity of its effects in the urban landscape. During opening days, there will be special screenings of "Backstory", Mark Lewis' new documentary on the Hansard family, pioneers of rear projection technology in Hollywood.

Cold Morning continues Mark Lewis' past and recent interests, combining references to architectural modernism with location shots in Toronto, such as Viljo Revell's City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square and Mies van der Rohe's TD Centre. Lewis' work expands the exploration of historical and contemporary cinematic techniques, and contributes to the special place they hold in the history of contemporary art in Canada in particular.

Cold Morning is accompanied by a catalogue, co-published with the Vancouver Art Gallery, with essays by Grant Arnold, David Company, Barbara Fischer, Laura Mulvey, and an interview between Mark Lewis and Klaus Biesenbach.

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Web Links

Monte Clark Gallery, Vancouver
Galerie Serge le Borgne, Paris
Mark Lewis Studio
Canada Pavilion Venice Biennale 2009
Afterall

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