



KyCAD gallery to transform into laboratory of lights with artist + ‘alchemist’ Ottinger

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Christopher Ottinger, "Horse"

Louisville, KY— Christopher Ottinger admits to having a touch of mad scientist in him.

So when the Chicago-based artist and educator’s *Cinema of Distraction* exhibition comes to the Kentucky College of Art + Design at Spalding University beginning March 22, visitors can expect a laboratory-like assemblage of glowing lights, holographic illusions, and the resuscitation of long-forgotten media gadgetry.

Ottinger takes an object-oriented approach to the field of study known as media archaeology, which excavates historical forms of media production and devices that, while largely omitted from media histories, have nevertheless influenced the development of contemporary media and culture.

“In my own practice, I similarly make use of and reference to pre-cinematic and forgotten forms of media,” Ottinger says in his artist statement, citing such archaic doodads as the Zoetrope (an early animation device) or Pepper’s Ghost (a projection technique that produced ghostly images). “I see myself less as an archaeologist or historian than I do an alchemist. Instead of base metals and noxious potions, however, my materials consist of cathode ray tubes, lenticular arrays, video projections, and the accoutrements of the mad scientist’s laboratory.”

By reconfiguring these technologies from the past, “it is my aim to raise questions about our relationship to media-based objects in the present—and possibly the future,” Ottinger says. “Like Etienne-Gaspard Robertson’s phantasmagoria of the 19th century, however, my work is as much the result of technological experimentation as it is an



effort to cultivate an experience of wonder and curiosity via technological means.”

Ottinger’s *Cinema of Distraction* explores the threads that connect humans’ interest in motion pictures from Paleolithic shadows on a wall to today’s attention-deficit generation devouring endless snippets of video via social media, the Internet and video games.

Ottinger earned his MFA in Studio Arts from Washington University in St. Louis and his BA at Columbia College Chicago in Film/Video Directing. His art has been exhibited throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. He is currently a lecturer in the departments of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation and Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Cinema of Distraction

Exhibition featuring the work of Christopher Ottinger
Artist Reception 03.22.18, 5-8pm; Artist Talk at 6pm
Exhibition on view 03.22.18 - 04.13.18

849 Gallery, KyCAD
849 S. Third St.
Louisville, KY 40203

Regular gallery hours: Thursday & Friday 11:30am-2:30pm, or by appointment, 502.873.4373

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THE KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN AT SPALDING UNIVERSITY (KyCAD) is a 501(c)(3) started in 2009 with the vision to build one of the top art schools in the nation. Students in the KyCAD program can receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Spalding University. KyCAD maintains a variety of arts outreach programs, including the 849 Gallery, which showcases rotating exhibitions, lectures and workshops by artists from KyCAD and from across the country. KyCAD.spalding.edu