

Cecelia Condit
Curated by Mary Lucier

September 4 – October 11, 2008
Opening Reception Thursday, September 4, 6:00 – 8:00pm

“Condit identifies the anxiety and apprehension that shadow women’s lives. She deals with that part of female experience – whether inculcated, remembered, or mythical – that invokes witches, nervous breakdowns, neurasthenia and despair.”

—Mary Lucier

Annie Lloyd, 2008
Photograph by Walter Condit



everyday life.” The stories are often narrated by the artist and include songs and music. Her voice gives an incredibly haunting delivery, coupling masterfully with the impressive cinematic quality of the often collaged imagery. Both work well to lure the viewer into their grasp and keep them captivated until the very end.

With symbolic language and fairy tale fables, Cecelia Condit dexterously employs the fantastic to confront life’s stark realities. Yet, the tales Condit conjures in her video works are nowhere near aligned with our modern-day, sanitized stories of lands far, far away. Disturbing psychological spheres, rooted in reality but marred by the surreal, serve as the backgrounds for her narratives, constantly veering between beauty and violence, humor and tragedy, fantasy and the mundane. Their intricacies mirror the predominantly female characters’ complex relationships with other women, men, nature and even themselves. Condit states, “I have tried to chart a course free of stereotypes, addressing the ambiguities between personal identity and the external expectations which lie just beneath the surface of

Condit’s exhibition at CUE Art Foundation, her first solo show in New York, will debut her newest video, *Annie Lloyd* (top, left), an intimate look at the last few years of the life of the artist’s mother. Reflecting upon their shared past, a new mutual affection develops and the inalienable bonds a mother and daughter share are explored. Condit and her mother “spin stories into a dance of identities between mother and daughter, weaving tales of remembering and becoming.” The tale of Annie Lloyd and her daughter/narrator is rather forgiving, a marked departure from many of Condit’s previous works, including *Possibly in Michigan* (bottom, right). In this piece, one of Condit’s earliest works, two women are chased through a luxurious shopping mall by a cannibalistic man in a mask that eventually follows one of the women home. In the end, the roles are reversed when the viewer sees the woman carrying a suggestive trash bag to the curb. The eerie melodies and grotesque mask, the luxurious shopping mall and beautiful women and the layering of powerful imagery throughout the story makes a potent critique of the subjectification of women, consumerism and domestic violence. In all of Condit’s work, images are collaged, overlaid and repeated, prompting the viewer to continually reevaluate their meaning in relation to one another – both within the context of the films individually, as well as with the other pieces in the exhibition.

Also on view are six of Condit’s other video works, ranging from 1981 to present and covering subjects such as childhood self-discovery, suburban living, child abuse and ageism. Much like the elements that compose the videos, the viewer’s emotional responses will run the gamut from captivation to repulsion, humor to sorrow, but in the end will leave them feeling touched to their core.



Possibly in Michigan, 1983
Video still

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan White, Programs Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org

ARTIST'S BIO:

Cecelia Condit studied sculpture at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA; received a B.F.A. in sculpture at the Philadelphia College of Art, and an M.F.A. in photography from Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA. She has received numerous awards for her work including fellowships from The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, the American Film Institute, and the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mary L. Nohl Fund. Her videos have been widely shown internationally at institutions and festivals including the Biennale de Paris; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; and the Milwaukee Art Museum, WI. She is currently Professor of Film and Video and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Film at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Condit's exhibition at CUE Art Foundation marks her first solo show in New York. For more information please visit www.ceceliacondit.com

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

Major program support is provided by The Accademia Charitable Foundation, Ltd., The Viking Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc., The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts (a State Agency).

