

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

For Immediate Release: August 22, 2014

ERIC DYER

COPENHAGEN CYCLES: 2006 - 2014

September 6 - October 11, 2014

By displaying the concrete machinery of illusion... Dyer fundamentally advances the staid gallery practice of video installation. ...[He]...delightfully joins the nineteenth century with the twenty-first, and lets the viewer compare self-contained zoetrope space with a video surround. George Griffin, *Eric Dyer: Take the B Train*, "Pervasive Animation," Edited by Suzanne Buchan, AFI Film Reader Series, Routledge.

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts will exhibit *Copenhagen Cycles* by Eric Dyer, a visual artist, filmmaker, and educator, in his first solo exhibition in New York. Dyer has won numerous awards in film festivals for his distinctive animation style based on the zoetrope, the pre-cinematic device that produces the illusion of movement by displaying a sequence of still images. Through his own elaborate process, Dyer reinvents the zoetrope to explore a visual language of loops and spirals that transcends real-time video documentation.

Copenhagen Cycles is Dyer's collaged portrait of Copenhagen in which transformed but recognizable images, based on that city, swirl across screens to dizzying effect. The body of work was initiated in 2006 when Dyer spent eight months videotaping and physically connecting to the city on bicycle. Working intuitively to exploit the seemingly never-ending expressive qualities of the process, Dyer selected sequential stills from the footage to structure and construct the zoetropes. Dyer originally showed *Copenhagen Cycles* as a film, which was included in more than four dozen festivals. He then built the zoetrope-sculptures, reshot them in high-definition, and configured a two-part installation for the Feldman Gallery in 2014.

In a darkened room, the oversized looped projections, running from one to four minutes each, immerse the viewer in a fantasy world where gravity is suspended, scale is upended, and perspective dissolves. Buildings, wind turbines, pigeons, swans, boats and buses, wheels, flowers, the sea, and cobblestones pulsate with kinetic motion. A solitary cyclist wearing a Viking helmet appears in several videos as a unifying thread – the artist who travels through a moving pop-up book version of the city. Within all the beautiful and strange fast moving images, slowly the history of a people and place is unexpectedly revealed.

In a second room, Dyer's hand-crafted zoetropes, circular spinning sculptures of layered rings of tiny cutouts, can be activated and viewed through special shutter glasses, an astonishing difference in scale. Also on exhibit are photographs of zoetrope details that capture the stop action moment of objects in motion – a counterpoint to Dyer's animations, which unleash the beauty of movement in still objects.

Institutions that have exhibited Dyer's work include the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art, the Exploratorium Museum, Ars Electronica, and the Cairo and Venice Biennales. His films have screened at numerous festivals, including the Chicago International Film Festival, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, South by Southwest, and the Ottawa, Annecy, Melbourne, and London International Animation Festivals. Notable awards include a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, a Creative Capital Grant, a Fulbright Fellowship, and was a New Frontier Artist at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. He is an associate professor at UMBC in Baltimore and recently was a visiting artist at California Institute of the Arts and Carnegie Mellon University.

A press kit with more information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1o703CA>

A video can be found at: <http://vimeo.com/105794146>

Reception: Saturday, September 6, 6-8. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10-6. Monday by appointment. For more information, contact Casey Dorobek (212) 226-3232 or casey@feldmangallery.com.

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