Serpentine Gallery

Press Release

'Solid light' projections fill the Serpentine Gallery for first major London Exhibition by British Artist Anthony McCall

30 November 2007 – 3 February 2008

This winter the Serpentine Gallery is flooded with mesmerizing, room-size 'solid light' installations by the British artist Anthony McCall (born 1946) for his first major exhibition in London.

The Gallery's dark and haze-filled spaces hold a series of light projections, creating beguiling three-dimensional forms: large cones, ellipses, waves and flat planes that gradually expand, contract or sweep through one another.

McCall's work crosses the boundaries between film, sculpture, installation, drawing and performance. His earliest films are documents of outdoor performances significant for their minimal use of the elements – most notably fire – and he was a key figure in the avant-garde London Film-Makers Co-operative in the 1970s.

After moving to New York in 1973, McCall developed his 'solid light' film series, including the now-legendary, *Line Describing a Cone*, 1973. These works are durational structures, which emphasise the sculptural qualities of light.

In the 'solid light' works, the artist deconstructs cinema by reducing film to its most basic elements – time and light – entirely removing the screen and camera. The works also changed the relationship between film and audience by making them participants, their bodies intersecting and modifying the projected forms.

McCall has recently returned to his 'solid light' series, this time using digital projectors rather than 16mm film. Through his involvement in expanding the notion of cinema, which enabled a more complex experience of projection, McCall has become a hero to a younger generation of artists working with film and installation.

His work is largely unknown to the wider British public and the Serpentine exhibition offers overview of both early and recent works of this seminal artist. The exhibition also features previously unseen drawings, studies, scores, photographs and documents from the artist's archive, which offer an insight into his working practice.

The exhibition is organised by the Serpentine Gallery, London, and presented in association with the Musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart, France.

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Serpentine Gallery, open 10am – 6pm daily. Admission free.
Christmas closing times 24, 25, 26 & 31 December 2007 and 1 January 2008

In association with

Musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart
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the Anthony McCall Exhibition Circle

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And those who wish to remain anonymous