



1606 PASEO DE PERALTA, SANTA FE, NM 87501

**SITE Santa Fe Presents**  
***Mungo Thomson: Time, People, Money, Crickets***  
**February 23-May 19, 2013**  
**Press Preview with the Artist, Thursday, February 21, 11 am – 12 pm**

*Members Preview: Thursday, February 21, 5-7 pm*

*Public Opening: Friday, February 22, 5-7 pm*

*Artist Talk: Saturday, February 23, 2 pm*



Mungo Thomson, Still from *Untitled (Margo Leavin Gallery, 1970-)*, 2009, courtesy of the artist.

January 10, 2013 - SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present *Mungo Thomson: Time, People, Money, Crickets*. This exhibition consists of a selection of Thomson's (b. 1969) recent works in a range of media including film, video, sound, sculpture and installation. **The artist will give a gallery talk on his work on Saturday, February 23 at 2 PM; free with museum admission.**

Mungo Thomson is a Los Angeles-based artist whose work explores mass culture, cosmology, and reception with economy and wit. He has been described as a perceptual artist who works with language and context rather than light and space. His work addresses the voids that exist within culture—the gaps, pauses, digressions and mistakes that surround material production, institutional space, and everyday life.

*Crickets* (2012) is an HD-video and audio installation of an orchestral performance based on the sound of crickets. Thomson collaborated with Los Angeles-based composer Michael Webster to transcribe a compilation of field recordings of crickets from around the world into a musical score for a 17-person orchestra. The result is a dynamic composition for violin, flute, clarinet and percussion. The project sums up Thomson's interests in backgrounds and in audience succinctly: crickets are such a ubiquitous aural backdrop that they have come to stand in for silence; in the realm of performance, crickets are what is heard when a performance bombs.

*Untitled (Margo Leavin Gallery, 1970–)* (2009) is a Super-16mm stop-motion film that animates the business card Rolodexes of Los Angeles' legendary Margo Leavin Gallery, which was founded in 1970 and recently closed. The Super-16mm frame matches the aspect ratio of the cards, and the flutter of the projector provides the soundtrack for the revolving card file; the result is two pre-digital data storage technologies, two turning wheels, in conversation. As the film flips frame-by-frame through every contact—artists, framers, electricians, collectors, customs agents, florists, critics, exterminators—a portrait of a constituency, and of a particular art history, becomes visible.

Thomson will also premiere two new works at SITE. *Acoustic Partition* (2013) is a follow-up to Thomson's project for the 2008 Whitney Biennial, *Coat Check Chimes*, which replaced all of the existing coat-hangers in the Whitney Museum's coat check with custom-made "tuned" hangers based on orchestral triangles. Through the coat check's daily operation the hangers knocked together to produce aleatory music. *Acoustic Partition* will be a fully functioning, collapsible room divider separating the gallery spaces. When slid open or closed by visitors, the door will push or draw air through the reed mechanics of an accordion. Like *Coat Check Chimes*, *Acoustic Partition* will be an enormous musical instrument disguised as part of the museum's institutional infrastructure and "played" by the public.

*Void and Observer* (2013) is the first iteration of a new sculpture series that focuses on mis-struck US coins—rare and collectible "error coins" that are a result of a production mistake at the US mint, in which a blank coin planchet is struck off-center with the coin image. In Thomson's reworking of the phenomena, produced in a limited edition, the off-center president appears to be contemplating the void of the blank part of the coin. The work is kept in the pocket of gallery personnel and displayed upon request.

The exhibition will also include a selection of works from Thomson's *TIME* project (2009–ongoing), a series of large mirror works, and *People* (2011–ongoing), a takeaway tabloid-style magazine.

This spring, SITE will publish Mungo Thomson's first monograph to accompany the exhibition. This publication is made possible by a lead gift from Rosina L. Yue & Bert A. Lies, MD, with additional support from Susan Foote & Stephen Feinberg, Michael Price, and Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris.

*Mungo Thomson: Time, People, Money, Crickets* is organized by SITE Santa Fe and the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver and curated by Irene Hofmann and Nigel Prince.

**This Winter/Spring Season is made possible in part by generous support from Susan Foote & Stephen Feinberg, Joann & Gifford Phillips, Barbara & Chuck Moore, and Doris Francis & Louis Erhard.**

### **About the Artist**

Mungo Thomson has had solo exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2008); The Kadist Art Foundation, Paris (2007); and Galeria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (GAMEC), Bergamo, Italy (2006), among others. His work has been included in several notable group exhibitions including *The Pacific Standard Time Public Art and Performance Festival* (2012); *Untitled (12<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial)*, Istanbul, Turkey (2011); *Compilation IV* at Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany (2009); *The 2008 Whitney Biennial* (2008); and *PERFORMA05: First Biennial of Visual Art Performance* (2005), among others. His works are in many public and private collections including those of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, among others. In 2013



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Thomson will have a solo exhibition at the Guangdong Times Museum in Guangzhou, China, and JRP|Ringier will publish the musical score for *Crickets*.

**Concurrent with *Mungo Thomson***

SITE will present *Mungo Thomson: Time, People, Money, Crickets* alongside two other related exhibitions *State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970* and *Linda Mary Montano: Always Creative*, all running concurrently from Feb. 23-May 19, 2013. Thomson comes from a younger generation of California artists whose conceptual bent is influenced by the older generation of groundbreaking practitioners in *State of Mind*, while the work of performance artist Linda Montano is featured in the historical exhibition as well. See separate releases for these exhibitions.

**About SITE Santa Fe**

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Thursday and Saturday, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM; closed Monday-Wednesday. Open Wednesdays in July and August. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.

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