

UNIT 17

Leslie Thornton (b. 1951, Knoxville, Tennessee)

Lives and works on the traditional territories of the Matinecock, Rockaway, Maspeth, and the Canarsie peoples, colonially known as Queens, New York, United States

Education

1976

Special Student, MIT, Massachusetts

Master of Fine Arts, The Hartford Art School, Connecticut

1974

Special Student, Harvard University

1973

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Magna Cum Laude), SUNY – Buffalo

1969 - 1971

Tufts University, Mathematics Major

Solo Exhibitions and Two-person Exhibitions

2021

Begin Again, Again, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts, USA

2020

Ground, Kunstverein Nürnberg, Nürnberg, Germany

2019

Speed 2 (with James Richards), Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden

Flutter, Unit 17 at Frieze New York, New York, USA

2018

Leslie Thornton: Cut from Liquid to Snake, Rodeo, London, UK

Crossing (with James Richards), Secession, Vienna, Austria

SPEED (with James Richards), Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Germany

SO MUCH MUCH, Unit 17, Vancouver, Canada

2017

Retrospective, Brooklyn Academy of Arts, Brooklyn, USA

2016

Abyss Film (with James Richards), Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover, Germany

Crossing (with James Richards), Rodeo, London, USA

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Of Necessity I Become an Instrument, Southfirst, New York, USA

2015

Retrospective, FemCine, Santiago, Chile

Retrospective, Zinebi Film Festival, Bilbao, Spain

2014

Midnight Moments, Times Square, NYC, USA

2013

digital (r)evolution (with Anne Spalter) and selections from the Spalter Collection of early computer art, Shattuck Gallery, Westport Massachusetts, USA

Luna, Winkleman Gallery, New York, USA

2012

Radical Symmetry, Elisabeth de Brabant Art Centre, Shanghai, China

2011

53 Museum, joint show, Guangzhou, USA

Binocular, Winkleman Gallery, NY, USA

2008

Retrospective, Cinematheque, San Francisco, USA

2006

FAMU, Prague, Czech Republic

Retrospective, Cinema Project, Portland, USA

2005

Leslie Thornton Retrospective, Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA

Retrospective, Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA

2000

World AIDS Day Program: Two Videos by Leslie Thornton, The RISD Museum, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

1996

Retrospective, Cinematheque, San Francisco, USA

1995

Retrospective, Film Forum, Los Angeles, USA

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1994

Retrospective, Collective for Living Cinema, New York, USA

1990

Retrospective, Collective for Living Cinema, New York, USA

Group Exhibitions

2019

New Order: Art and Technology in the Twenty-First Century, MoMA, New York, USA

2018

Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2018, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

Platforms: Collection and Commissions, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
WE, Rodeo, London, UK

Security Landscapes, DREI, Cologne, Germany

2017

Whitney Biennial, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA

2016

The Cypress Broke, Rodeo, London, UK

Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

g00g13 34r+h, Spaces Gallery, Cleveland, USA

The Inoperative Community, Museum Sztuki, Łódź, Poland

2015

The Inoperative Community, Raven Row Gallery, London, UK

The Cipher and the Frame, Cubitt Gallery, London, UK

Modes of Play, MUMOK, Berlin, Germany

Tongues Untied, MOCA, Los Angeles, USA

Art + Computer / Time, Brattleboro Art Museum, Brattleboro, USA

2014

White Nights, Melbourne, Australia

2013

Park Nights, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK

2012

LUX/ICA Biennial of Moving Images, Lux & Institute of Contemporary Arts, London

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Techno Nature, Zürcher Studio, Paris

India: Visions From The Outside, Cultuurcentrum Brugge, Belgium

On Photography: Elisabeth Subrin's The Fancy, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA

2011

Elisabeth de Brabant Art Centre, Shanghai, China

Beautiful Vagabonds, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, USA

Radical Light Program, MOMA, New York, USA

Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, USA

Kinetic Histories, LABoral Art, Gijón, Spain

2010

This is Tomorrow, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

2009

Performa, La MaMa Galleria, New York, USA

State of Emergency Exhibition, Window Gallery, Eyebeam, New York, USA

2008

Whitney Biennial, The Whitney Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA

FluxSpace, Philadelphia, USA

2007

documenta 12, Kassel, Germany

La Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France

EQUAL, THAT IS, TO THE REAL ITSELF, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, USA

12th International Media Art Biennale WRO 07, Wroclaw, Poland

2006

Experimental Film Touring Program, BFI, Various

2004

The Young Artists' Biennial, Bucharest, Romania

2000

The Color of Ritual, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Presumés Innocent: L'art contemporain et l'enfance, capcMusée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

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Errant Gestures: Visual and Verbal Correspondences, Apex Art Curatorial Program, New York

1999

Re-Make/Re-Model: Secret Histories of Art, Pop, Life, and the Avant-garde, Steirischer herbst 99, Graz, Austria

Xn99, Espace des arts, Chalon-sur-Saône, France

1998

Lo-Fi Baroque, Thread Waxing Space, New York, USA

Kunstenfestivale des Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Screenings

2020

Abyss Film (screening event with James Richards), Tate Modern, London, UK

2019

Artists' Cinema, Tate Modern, London, UK

California Institute of Technology, California, USA

2018

Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway

2017

Migrating Forms, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, USA

2016

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2015

Ambulante, Chiapas, Mexico

2013

Courtisane Festival, Belgium

The New York Film Festival, New York, USA

2012

LUX/ICA Biennial of Moving Images, Lux & Institute of Contemporary Art, London, USA

Migrating Forms Festival, New York, USA

San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco, USA

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2011

Havana Film Festival, New York, USA

New York Film Festival, New York City, USA

Time Again, Anthology Film Archive, New York, USA

Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York, USA

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2010

Film Comment Selects, Lincoln Center, New York, USA

Punto de Vista Film Festival, Pamplona, Spain

Glasgow International Film Festival, Scotland

Women's Film Festival, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA

Migrating Forms, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, USA

UnionDocs, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Auto-Kino, Berlin, Germany

Berlinale 2010, Berlin, Germany

Maysles Cinema, New York, USA

2009

Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA

Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Thessaloniki, Greece

Impakt, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Trinidad Film Festival, Trinidad

Lucca Film Festival, Tuscany, Italy

New York Film Festival, New York, USA

Oberhausen Film Festival, Oberhausen, Germany

Cote Cort Festival, Paris, France

The Subversive Film Festival, Zagreb, Croatia

2008

Artefacts Festival, Stuc & Leuven, Belgium

NY Underground Film Festival, New York, USA

46th New York Film Festival, New York, USA

Oberhausen Film Festival, Oberhausen, Germany

Art About Freedom Festival, Gdansk, Poland

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2007

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Scanners: The 2007 New York Video Festival, New York, USA

25th Kassel Documentary Film & Video Festival, Kassel, Germany

2006

Electromediascope, Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City, USA

Barcelona International Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain

44th New York Film Festival, New York, USA

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

New York Underground Film Festival, New York, USA

2005

Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Taipei, Taiwan

Seoul Net and Film Festival, Seoul, South Korea

SKIF Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia

San Francisco International Film Festival, San Francisco, USA

BAC 39th International Film and Video Festival, New York, USA

Inside Out Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival, Toronto, Canada

The Lower West Side Film Festival, New York, USA

MadCat Women's International Film Festival, San Francisco, USA

Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

International Short Film Festival, Winterthur, Delaware, USA

43rd New York Film Festival, New York, USA

Onion City Festival, Chicago, USA

BFI 49th London Film Festival, London, UK

2004

Impakt, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Television broadcast, Dutch TV, The Netherlands

42nd New York Film Festival, New York, USA

San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco, USA

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2003

Electromediascope, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, USA

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International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Video Les Beaux Jours 31, Television Broadcast, French TV, France

2002

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

9th New York Underground Film Festival, Anthology Film Archives, New York, USA

Buenos Aires IV Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Woodstock Film Festival, New York, USA

CinemaTexas 7 International Short Film Festival, Austin, USA

Regus London Film Festival, London, UK

2001

CinemaTexas Sixth International Short Film Festival, Austin, USA

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2000

London Regional Art and Historical Screening, London, UK

The Avant-garde as Seen from New York, Cinémathèque française, Paris, France

Art of the Century, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA

1999

Impakt, Utrecht, The Netherlands

International Film Festival Rotterdam/IFFR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco, USA

1998

Pandaemonium Festival of the Moving Image, London, UK

Electromediascope, Nelson-Atkins Museum/Kansas City Arts Institute, USA

Arteleku, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain

Ret.Inevitable: A Carnival of Cinematic Delight, The Anchorage, Brooklyn, USA

Awards, Residencies, and Nominations

2019

Artist Residency, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

Artist Residency, California Institute of Technology, California, USA

2018

Artist Residency, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

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2013

Guggenheim Fellowship, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York USA

1998

Hugo Boss Award Nomination, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA

1997

Bellagio Residency, The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, USA

1996

The Maya Deren Award for Independent Film and Video Artists, American Film Institute, Los Angeles, USA

The Alpert Awards in the Arts, The Herb Alpert Foundation, Santa Monica, USA

1990

Fellowship, The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, USA

1988

Fellowship, The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, USA

Press/Publications

2022

Bell, Natalie, et al., "Leslie Thornton", monograph, Sternberg Press

2020

Nam, Hiji, "Leslie Thornton," Artforum

Hines-Green, "Ground," Art Monthly

2021

Thornton, Leslie, "Leslie Thornton is Still Searching for Peace", Frieze

2019

Lawson-Lancred, Jo, "American Film-maker Leslie Thornton on the Exchange between Science and Art," Financial Times

2018

Thornton, Leslie, "EVENT", artist book, Revolver Publishing

Davidson, Alex, "Rodeo," Artforum

Kidner, Dan, "Leslie Thornton's 35 years of Radical Filmmaking," Frieze

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2017

Aspesi, Lucia, "Narrative Trance: James Richards and Leslie Thornton," Mousse

2013

Silar, Susan, "The Kaleidoscopic Visions of Leslie Thornton", Hyperallergic