**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:**

Rodney Graham. *Phonokinetoscope*

May 17–June 27, 2021

Lab

18+

*Phonokinetoscope* is Canadian artist and musician Rodney Graham’s first showcase in Russia and the second solo presentation within the series of projects by artists from different generations who work with film and video. These exhibitions expand our understanding of the moving image—its forms, functions, and the emotions it can invoke.

The title of Graham’s exhibition at Garage refers to the artist’s eponymous film installation on view, *Phonokinetoscope* (2001), a complex symbiotic experiment which in turn evokes the kinetoscope, a pioneering device for the synchronization of sound and image invented by Thomas Edison and William Kennedy Laurie Dickson in 1895. In the five-minute looped film we see a solitary Rodney Graham on a bicycle ride through Tiergarten in Berlin, evoking quite Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann’s bicycle ride in 1943 after his accidental discovery of the psychoactive substance LSD.

The installation’s laconic presentation in the museum space (projection wall, 16mm film projector, modified LP player, speakers) is ingeniously deceptive. What awaits us is a vast and carefully choreographed constellation of sonic correlations, poetic congruences, and cinematic and literary associations challenging traditional narrative building and hierarchies.

In Graham’s version of the phonokinetoscope, the film projector produces an image only when the turntable is activated. This is something the artist delegates to an audience member, disrupting the traditional relationship between sound, image, and narrative by adding an element of randomness. The mechanical effort that eventually unites image with sound each time someone intervenes by activating the LP, and the fact that the resulting specific coupling is, undoubtably, a by-product of chance, astutely correlates with the story unfolding in the film. Using various visual triggers, Graham reminds us that it is we, the viewers, our thought processes, actions or inactions that drive the narrative forward, and sometimes that means finding ourselves in a space immersed in darkness and temporary silence.

Rodney Graham (b. 1949, Abbotsford, Canada) is an artist and musician. His most recent solo exhibitions include *Artists and Models*, Serlachius Museum Gösta, Mänttä, Finland (2020); *Lightboxes*, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden; and *That’s Not Me*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (both 2017). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including most recently *Magical Soup. Media Art from the Collection of the Nationalgalerie, the Friedrich Christian Flick Collection and Loans*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2020) and *KNOCK, KNOCK: Humour in Contemporary Art*, South London Gallery, London (2018). Rodney Graham is recipient of the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Visual Arts (2011, Canada) and the Kurt-Schwitters-Preis (2006, Germany), among others. He lives and works in Vancouver.

**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art is a place for people, art, and ideas to create history. Through an extensive program of exhibitions, events, education, research, and publishing, the institution reflects on current developments in Russian and international culture, creating opportunities for public dialogue, as well as the production of new work and ideas in Moscow. At the center of all these activities is the Museum’s collection, which is the first archive in the country related to the development of Russian contemporary art from the 1950s through the present. Founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova and Roman Abramovich, Garage is the first philanthropic organization in Russia to create a comprehensive public mandate for contemporary art and culture. Open seven days a week, it was initially housed in the renowned Bakhmetevsky Bus Garage in Moscow, designed by the Constructivist architect [Konstantin Melnikov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Melnikov). In 2012 Garage relocated to a temporary pavilion in Gorky Park, specifically commissioned from award-winning architect Shigeru Ban. A year later, a purpose-built Education Center was opened next to the Pavilion. On June 12, 2015, Garage welcomed visitors to its first permanent home. Designed by Rem Koolhaas and his OMA studio, this groundbreaking preservation project transformed the famous Vremena Goda (Seasons of the Year) Soviet Modernist restaurant, built in 1968 in Gorky Park, into a contemporary museum.

Garage is a non-profit project of The IRIS Foundation.

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