

Mon Nov 25 |8:30|

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$10.00 [members \$8.00]

The Real and the Hyper-Real: Films and Videos by Scott Stark

Scott Stark's films, videos, and installations are kinetic revelations that can be shocking, mesmerizing and narratively rich. Each is a distinctive cultural and aesthetic adventure with its own conceptual rigor. Films include *More Than Meets the Eye: Remaking Jane Fonda* (2001/06), Stark's witty response to this American icon; *Speechless* (2008), a visceral collision of anatomy with rough-hewn surfaces; Stark's masterful *The Realist* (2013), a "doomed love" melodrama peopled with department store mannequins, and located in the visually heightened universe of clothing displays, fashion islands and storefront windows.

In person: Scott Stark

"As with many of his films Scott Stark is able to approach the ornaments and artifacts of mundane experience and conventional thinking to reveal both basic truths and shielded arcana. With an intelligence and imagination as piercing as it is deadpan, Stark never simply transforms the ordinary into the simply marvelous or the simply absurd. Rather he keeps the balance on an even keel through formal distillation and allowing disassimilations that open our eyes to the strangeness of the commonplace - and to humans as both keen and blunt receivers of mixed signals." - Mark McElhatten

"This is a magisterial composition, the work of a visionary artist, a true poet, who is in complete command of his medium... the power of *The Realist* comes from a synthesis of form and content - there's something deeper than just dynamism, no matter how dazzling it may be. Something ultimately poignant, even wistful, in this universal melodrama of our time."

- Gene Youngblood, author of *Expanded Cinema*

Program

More Than Meets the Eye: Remaking Jane Fonda

(2001/2006, DV, 20 mins.)

A remake of Fonda's exercise video from the 1980s, with Stark as the performer.

Longhorn Tremolo
(2010, DV, 16 mins.)

Excited Texas football fans move through a visually kinetic space in slow motion.

Speechless
(2008, 16mm, 13 mins.)

3D photographs of human vulvae are animated and interwoven with surfaces and textures from natural and human-made environments.

The Realist
(2013, HD, 40 mins.)

An experimental and highly abstracted melodrama, a "doomed love story" storyboarded with flickering still photographs, peopled with department store mannequins, and located in the visually heightened universe of clothing displays, fashion islands and storefront windows.

Bloom
(2012, DV, 11 mins.)

Industrial penetrations into the arid Texas landscape yield a strange and exotic flowering. Using images from the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, based on oil drilling footage from the first half of the 20th century.

Scott Stark has made over 75 films and videos since the early 1980s, and has created numerous installations, performances and photo-collages. His work has shown nationally and internationally in venues as diverse as New York's Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Cinematheque, the Film Festival Rotterdam, the Tokyo Image Forum, and many others. His 16mm film *Angel Beach* was invited into the 2002 Whitney Biennial, and in 2007 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship. He lives in Austin, Texas. He is the webmaster for Flicker (www.hi-beam.net), the web resource for experimental film and video, and in 2012 he started an avant garde film series in Austin called Experimental Response Cinema (www.ercatx.org). More information is available at www.scottstark.com.

Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud

<http://www.scottstark.com/>

<http://www.gf.org/fellows/14047-scott-stark>

<http://mubi.com/notebook/posts/the-hollow-ones-scott-starks-the-realist>