

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

STILL MOVING & LADY
WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JUDY LINN

3 SEPTEMBER – 7 OCTOBER 2006
OPENING THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

"The first time I saw Robert he was sleeping. I stood over him, this boy of twenty, who sensing my presence opened his eyes and smiled. With few words he became my friend, my compeer, my beloved adventure."

Patti Smith, "The Coral Sea", 1996

Alison Jacques is proud to curate an exhibition of Robert Mapplethorpe focusing on the artist's seldom-screened film work. November 4, 2006 would have been Robert Mapplethorpe's 60th birthday; it is with great pleasure that the gallery has been able to collaborate with Patti Smith on both this exhibition and a unique evening at Tate Modern to mark the event.

During the exhibition, the gallery will continually screen Mapplethorpe and Smith's black and white film *Still Moving* (1978) and also Mapplethorpe's colour film *Lady* (1984), made in collaboration with Lisa Lyon. On view will be a large group of Mapplethorpe photographs of Patti Smith, including unique works and early Polaroids, as well as more well-known silver gelatin photographs. Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith's close association will also be reflected in images of them both, shot by photographer Judy Linn in the early 70s. Other works will include: a key drawing by Patti Smith relating to "The Coral Sea" (a book of her poems published in 1996 in memory of Robert Mapplethorpe); alongside Mapplethorpe's photograph *Coral Sea* (1983); and Mapplethorpe's famous American Flag photograph (1977), showing the tattered flag, which could be seen as relating to the muslin cloth, that later surrounded Patti Smith in the film *Still Moving*.

A series of important photographs from the 80s of Lisa Lyon will be exhibited in the upstairs gallery. A number of these works appear in Mapplethorpe's book "Lady Lisa Lyon" (1983) and some are images now being shown for the first time in the UK.

Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe's 13-minute 16mm film *Still Moving* had its premiere at their show held at Robert Miller Gallery, New York in 1978. Mapplethorpe wanted to capture on film the essence of Smith's presence and her poetry and literature. During the film Patti Smith recites excerpts from several of her poems, among them "Babelfield", "Combe" and "Pinwheels", as well as improvising dialogues. Later, Patti Smith explained that the film was total improvisation, citing the basic theme as the struggle between heaven and earth, good and evil.

The second film on view in the exhibition will be Mapplethorpe's 5-minute video work *Lady*, made in 1984 in collaboration with bodybuilding champion Lisa Lyon.

On Friday, 8 September at 7pm, Tate Modern in collaboration with Alison Jacques Gallery will present an evening of poetry and song performed by Patti Smith. There will also be a screening on 16 mm film of *Still Moving* and a rare presentation of Nigel Finch's 1988 documentary: the only major broadcast featuring an interview with Mapplethorpe. For tickets, contact 020 7887 8888 / www.tate.org.uk/modern

On 11 and 12 September, Patti Smith and Kevin Shields will present *The Coral Sea Sessions*: an evening of poetry and music in remembrance of Robert Mapplethorpe at Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre. For tickets, contact 08703 800400 / www.rfh.org.uk

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