

T.J. WILCOX

3 June to 5 July 2003

Garlands

private view: Tue 3 June 6-8p

For his third exhibition at Sadie Coles HQ, American artist T.J. Wilcox presents twelve new films as a series of sketches representing the artist's varied methodology. All sub-titled *Garlands*, and made to be shown together, the short silent films will be screened simultaneously on three projectors.

As in previous works, Wilcox uses a combination of found footage, collaged animation and his own films to make mini-narratives. The works in this show include *Strawberry*, a film of a fetishized strawberry plant in the artist's garden which came to obliquely represent innocence and growth post 9/11. There are also *Garlands* about the artist's beloved stepmother, Ann; a segment about *Ortino*, the pet dog of the Romanoff Princesses who was massacred alongside his owners which uses archive footage of Tatiana and Ortino to narrate the death of the innocent; a tribute to the romance of travel with *Around the World in 80 Seconds* using money shots of the world's great tourist destinations; *Bee Movie*, about beekeeping and the magical rituals and mythology inherent in the production of nature's most impressive alchemical substance; the story of Ara Tripp, a transsexual from Wilcox's home town, a former construction worker who had a sex change and who climbed to the top of a local powerline, topless, to campaign about a woman's right to bare breasts. Other films examine melting polar ice caps, *Humpty Dumpty*, sunsets, tree planting and the annunciation of Christ. Linking the *Garlands* is their melancholic ruminations on innocence, romance and courage.

T.J. Wilcox will be showing all his earlier films, *The Escape (of Marie Antoinette)*, *The Death and Burial of the First Emperor of China*, *Stephen Tennant Homage*, *Midnight Movie*, *Ladies' Room (20 Questions)*, *The Funeral of Marlene Dietrich*, *Hadrian and Antinous*, and *The Little Elephant* in the Starr Auditorium at Tate Modern, Sunday 1 June at 3pm, The screenings will be followed by a conversation between Wilcox and the independent curator, Ian White.

For press and further information please contact Sara Harrison at email sara@sadiecoles.com or telephone 020 7434 2227.