

# **Sundance Film Festival 2011**

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## **FIVE DECADES COLLAGES DEBUT AT 2011 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

### **Festival to show historical collages by Oakland artist, Mark Hendricks**

OAKLAND, CA -- Sundance Institute selected *Five Decades*, an ongoing series of collages, each created at the end of the previous decade, to be displayed in conjunction with the screening of many of the festival's documentaries. *Five Decades* can be viewed at the Temple Theater, 3700 North Brookside Ct., Park City Utah, beginning Thursday, January 20 through Saturday January 29, 2011.

Several years ago when John Cooper, Director, Sundance Film Festival, first asked Mark Hendricks when he would be ready to show, his response was, "When I'm dead." Even after a good laugh, the subject came up again several times. In 2009, as the first decade of the 21st Century was coming to an end, they realized the upcoming collage would result in a 50 year series spanning two centuries. It was decided then that the project should debut at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. The timing was perfect; shortly after the completion of the Aught Years, and hopefully well before the artist's death.

Kaitly Stanton, Theater Operations Manager, describes the exhibit location as "ideal because the nature of documentary film making correlates to the images and media used for the collages."

This interwoven series forms a complex personal statement of the artist's time. Each of the five pieces is a kaleidoscopic bridge between the imaginings of the decade and the artist's point of view. The work is rife with political comment, social satire, and cultural critique. From the acidly satirical Sixties through the more optimistic world view of the Nineties to the just ended Aught years, this continuum of work is to

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be displayed as a single constellation for the first time. Together they draw a powerful line through a 50-year expanse of the past into the future.

The themes addressed range from the microcosm of the artist's experience of a decade to the macrocosm of world history. Images and text are cross-referenced and distilled creating multiple, nonlinear montages in which meaning is continually reinvented and various possibilities and points of view are revealed. Reoccurring themes of hope and dismay persist and evolve over time. Potent reminders of human failures such as war, pollution and starvation juxtapose with optimistic potential in nature, innovation and evolution to create a dialog. This dialog leads to more stories, that transcend time and lead beyond the point where imagination leaves off. The result is similar to the way our minds organize memories, at different depths, one overlapping another and continuously shifting.

Mark Hendricks was born in Detroit, and grew up on radical labor and civil rights politics, blues, jazz, soul, folk, rock, great lakes and the Diego Rivera dominated Detroit Institute of Art. He began oil painting at age nine. Subsequently Mark earned degrees in fine art and psychology. During the mid-seventies he arrived on the left coast from Ann Arbor Michigan.

In San Francisco Mark was intimately involved with early adaptation of innovations in public information, education, animation, web technology and user-centered design. He has resided in Oakland's Maxwell Park for the past 25 years.

Mark believes that as we become one with our images, our future and past move closer together. He continues to explore these entry points into understanding by mapping our evolving narratives. Mark says, "I like to watch light splash and catch it when I can."

### ***Five Decades*** 1970-2010

Art board, glue, and ephemera rescued from the published detritus of each decade

<b><i>The Sixties</i></b>	w28" x h44"	c1970
<b><i>The Seventies</i></b>	w60" x h40"	c1980
<b><i>The Eighties</i></b>	w96" x h48"	c1990
<b><i>The Nineties</i></b>	w96" x h48"	c2000
<b><i>The Aught Years</i></b>	w96" x h48"	c2010

For images go to <http://www.well.com/user/hendrix/decades.html>