

## I AM BRUCE CONNER. I AM NOT BRUCE CONNER.

**An Exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation  
September 12 – October 17, 2010**

*"A lot of things that I've been involved in I've done because nobody else was doing them."  
(Bruce Conner)*

Bruce Conner, one of the great twentieth-century magicians in art, has not only shown new ways of filmmaking, but reinvented himself again and again in his works in various media such as assemblage, drawings, and photograms. Born in 1933, he belongs to the first generation of American independent filmmakers around Stan Brakhage, Jack Smith and Jonas Mekas. He spent a large part of his life in San Francisco, where he died in 2008. He was close to the Beat Generation and its freethinking redefinition of the American way of life and has remained an insider's tip despite his pioneering feats. His films, mostly montages of documentary found footage, aestheticize reality in a uniquely lyrical manner without abandoning a critical view of art and society.

The exhibition centers on Bruce Conner's play with authorship and the artist's identity. Whether he distributed buttons with the words I AM BRUCE CONNER or I AM NOT BRUCE CONNER at exhibition openings or had himself declared dead in *Who's Who in America* in 1972, he avoided artistic, personal and marketable categorizations throughout his life. Besides a selection of his most important films, the exhibition comprises works from Conner's THE DENNIS HOPPER ONE MAN SHOW, a series of figuratively surrealist graphic works reminiscent of Max Ernst, which the artist presented under the name of the Hollywood actor he was friends with. For Bruce Conner, identity turns into a concept to be played with; he humorously questions the artist's role by disguising, ironizing, and negating authorship and signature. Ephemera of further related artistic activities in Duchamp's vein reveal a largely unknown aspect of Conner's production.

The exhibition, which also includes the artist's last video installation THREE SCREEN RAY and focuses on the late 1960s and 1970s, is the first major solo presentation of Bruce Conner's work in Europe and is realized in collaboration with the Kunsthalle Wien, where it will be on display from October 8, 2010 to January 30, 2011.

### **Exhibition venue**

#### **Ursula Blickle Foundation**

Mühlweg 18, D -76703 Kraichtal-UÖ  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687  
[www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Press information**

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### **Press Images**

Images will be made available on the foundation's website: [www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Publication**

A publication will be published in conjunction with the exhibition

### **Preview**

Please reserve by telephone or fax:  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

### **Exhibition Dates**

**September 12 – October 17, 2010**

### **Opening Event**

**Saturday, September 11, 2010, 7 p.m.**

Welcome: Ursula Blickle  
Introduction: Dr. Gerald Matt

### **Curator**

Dr. Gerald Matt  
(Director Kunsthalle Wien)

### **Opening hours**

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 8 p.m.  
and by appointment

### **Closing Event:**

**October 17, 2010, 4 p.m.**

Lecture and conversation:  
Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, art historian, Stuttgart

**We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in you medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!**