

Phill Niblock (b. USA 1933)

Photographs and films from the 60's



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For this first solo show of Phill Niblock's in Spain, àngels barcelona presents some iconic photographs & films produced during the sixties (from 1966-1969).

During that time, Niblock started shooting in 16mm film and documenting through film his encounters with musicians, painters, actors, and dancers. Those encounters led to a series of 6 sound films made in quick succession between 1966 and 1969, later collected as *Six Films*. This series of films includes traditional portrait style films as well as abstract and experimental films like "The Magic Sun"

Phill Niblock (b. 1933, USA) is an artist whose sixty-year career spans minimalist and experimental music, film and photography. Since 1985, he has served as director of Experimental Intermedia, a foundation for avant-garde music based in New York with a branch in Ghent, and curator of the foundation's record label XI. Known for his thick, loud drones of music, Niblock's signature sound is filled with microtones of instrumental timbres that generate many other tones in the performance space. In 2013, his diverse artistic career was the subject of a retrospective realised in partnership between Circuit (Contemporary Art Centre Lausanne) and Musée de l'Élysée curated by Mathieu Copeland.

The following year Niblock was honoured with the prestigious Foundation for Contemporary Arts John Cage Award.



Morning, 1966-1969 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, Film, black & white, sound, 17 min.

4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1 AP

Was conceived by Phill Niblock and Jean Claude Van Itallie. It was filmed by Phill Niblock, with text contributions from Lee Worley and Michael Corner, featuring members of the Open Theater group. The cast included Lee Worley, James Barbosa, Cynthia Harris, Sharon Gans, and Joseph Chaikin. Lee Worley and James Barbosa read the text.



The Magic Sun, 1966 - 1968 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, high contrast black & white, sound, 17 min.
4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1 AP

The film features members of the Sun Ra Arkestra and is accompanied by music from Sun Ra and the Arkestra.



Dog Track , 1969 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, color, sound, 8 min. 30 sec.

4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1 AP

Filmed by Niblock accompanying a found text narrated by Barbara Porte.



Annie, 1968 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, color, sound, 8 min.

4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1 AP

The film is a portrait of the dancer Ann Danoff, with a soundtrack consisting of a sound collage.



Max, 1966- 1968 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, black & white, sound, 7 min. 30 sec.

4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1 AP

The image collage film and portrait of percussionist/sound-artist Max Neuhaus, featuring a collage soundtrack by Max Neuhaus. The film is in black and white and shot on 16mm film.



Raoul, 1968- 1969 / 2023

16mm transferred to digital file, color, sound, 20 min.

4:3 format.

Ed. 5 + 1AP

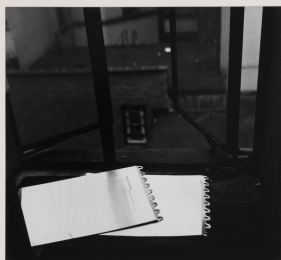
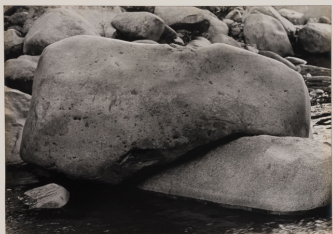
It's a portrait film of the painter Raoul Middleman, making extensive use of time-lapse film techniques. The soundtrack is improvised by Raoul Middleman and Phill Niblock.



The photographs shown in our main gallery were shown for the first time in 1966 at The Underground Gallery, at 51 East 10th Street in New York, Niblock's first solo show. The photographs in this series are selected shots from his journeys around New York City and the wider east coast during that time. The series is a precursor of his environment series and has been shown only recently in his retrospective in Lausanne*. All the prints are vintage.

*Phill Niblock Nothing but working - A Retrospective. Mathieu Copeland (ed) and published by Walther Koenig, 2023. An Exhibition by Mathieu Copeland at Circuit, Contemporary Art Centre and Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland, 30 January – 14 May, 2013.







Set of 15 original prints, vintage,
exhibited at Underground Gallery, New
York, in 1966, 1965-1966
Black and white photographs dry
mounted onto a passepartout
34 x 38 cm each