



JONATHAN JAMES

Stock Image



The University Gallery 20 February - 9 March 2013



THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

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OPEN Wednesday - Saturday 12 noon - 6pm or by appointment



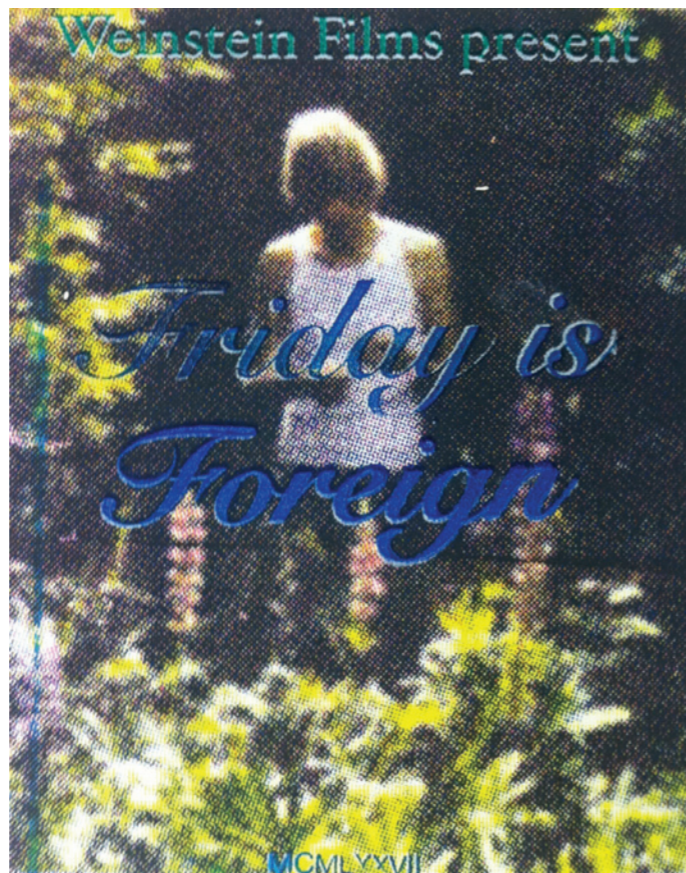
1 New media often uses the tactile elements visible in old media. The discolouration of Polaroids and the grain of film stock are two popular examples, in digital imagery. This tactility gives the image the appearance of being a hand-worn object, offering a grip hold in an object-less digital world.

The object comes with in-built aura, nostalgia and authenticity. Its appeal to history invites reflection. Adding age, be it kitsch or not, to digital imagery raises questions over our use and understanding of new media. Is it necessary that the interface of much modern technology appears in the guise of our past, and why?

2 Good cinema, your notion or mine, invites projection. As the light shines over our heads, our imagination is stoked and projects onto the characters looming above us. We psychically inhabit alternate worlds.

Some of my artworks, including a self-portrait, were recently included in a feature film and so I saw aspects of myself on the big screen. The cinema screen, my space for projection and exploration was disrupted by too familiar imagery. The screen didn't reflect back what I see in the mirror, it wasn't able to allow for reflection.

3 Navigating Raymond Chandler's plotlines is similar to navigating Los Angeles dense web of neighbourhoods. His beautifully constructed sentences delight me with their flawless grammar. He hides plot clues with the ease of his writing. Los Angeles, famously, hides so much in its light. By day the city invites reflection as it basks in gold. At night, celebrities unzip their Juicy Couture sweat suits without ruining their hair or make



up, and change into cocktail dresses, while pollution creates extraordinary sunsets. Dreams and desire are navigated with a prosaic attitude, and flair.

Nostalgia straddles contradictory emotions, allowing for the absurd alongside the heartfelt. We scavenge for clues, like Chandler's Marlowe, in complex, contradictory territories, often unsure of any actual question. People with a feeling for order or beauty, Phillip Lopate suggests, can only feel one thing when they comprehend the present; disappointment.

Jonathan James February 2013

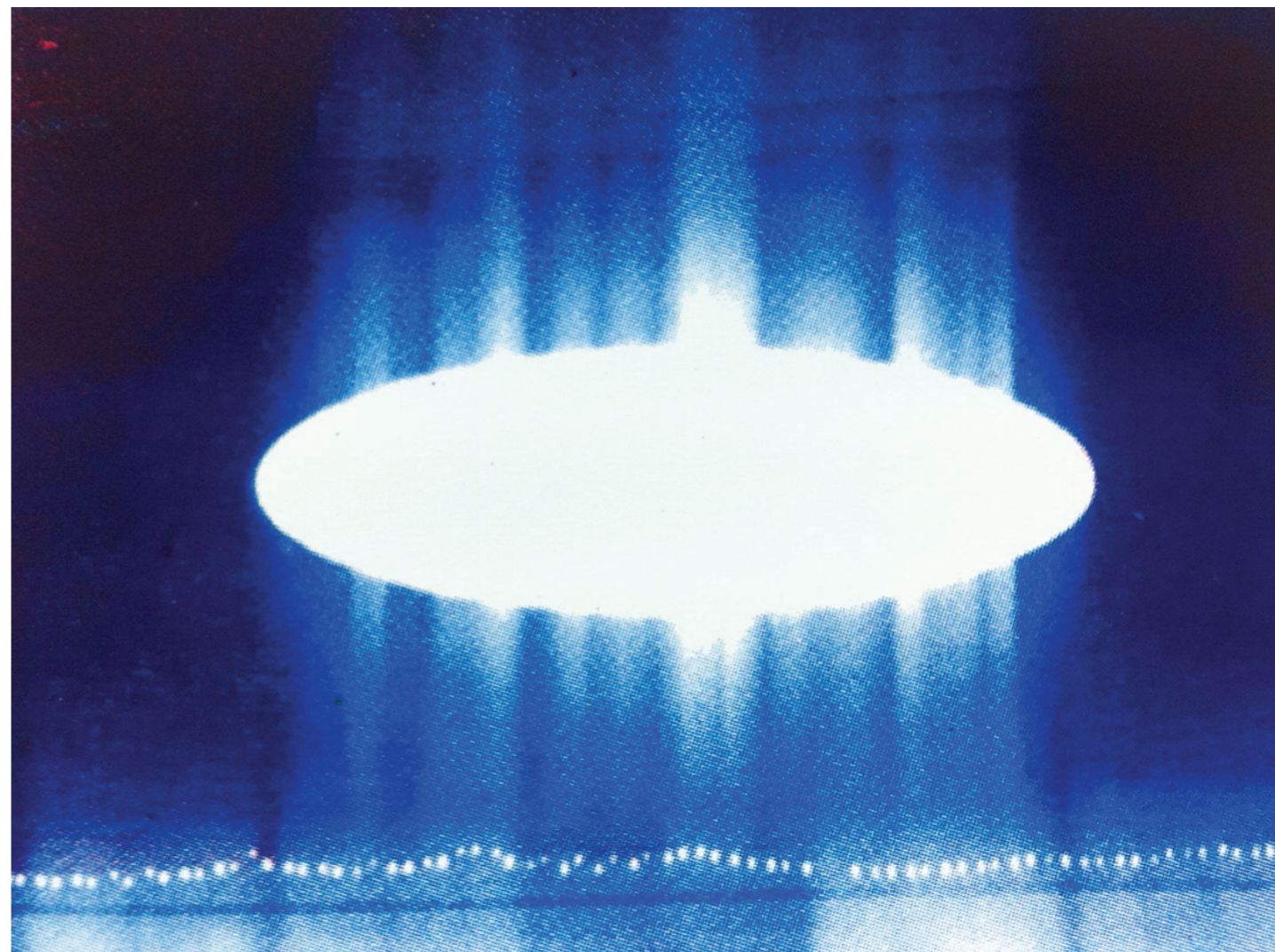


IMAGE FRONT COVER Jonathan James *starring Dahlia Jasper* 2009, screen print on found image, 30.5 x 40 cm

IMAGE ABOVE LEFT Jonathan James *Cover* 2013, silk screen, 19.5 x 23 cm framed

IMAGE ABOVE RIGHT Jonathan James *Screen* 2013 silk screen, 32 x 25 cm framed

IMAGE BACK COVER Jonathan James *Cinema* 2012, silk screen, 104.5 x 61.5 cm framed