

[NYOC GALLERY]

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S A M S A R A

RON FRICKE & MARK MAGIDSON

August 17 - September 14, 2012

August 17, 2012 | 6-8:00pm ART OPENING RECEPTION

August 17, 2012 | 8-8:45pm ART TALK / FILM TRAILER PREVIEW



Ron Fricke, Luderitz, 2008.

Mark Magidson, Sand Mandala, 2008.

Mark Magidson, Balinese Ceremony, 2008.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York Open Center Gallery, in collaboration with Oscilloscope Laboratories, is honored to present **SAMSARA**. This photography exhibition, from award winning filmmakers Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson, coincides with the debut of their upcoming film, Samsara, opening in theaters on August 24, 2012.

Samsara is a Sanskrit word defined as “the ever turning wheel of life”. These images act as a guided meditation on the cycle of birth, death and rebirth sculpted by the power of flow on a global level. Illuminating the links between humanity and nature and the interconnection that runs through our lives, we are deeply moved by each moment captured in time.

Visiting a total of 25 countries in 5 years, the viewer is transported around the globe to catch a glimpse of both the exotic and the mundane. This exploration leads us through majestic and untouched landscapes, futuristic cities, and varying cultures, seen through the prisms of daily life and ancient traditions.

The photographs included in this exhibition, taken by the filmmakers over the course of their travels, are extraordinary in their technique and composition. This is clearly exemplified in the painterly approach of the desert terrains shot at the Namib Desert in Namibia and at Monument Valley, located at the Arizona-Utah state line. Through the eye of the lens, the sweeping vistas reach towards the transcendental and a deep reverence for the soul of the land is internally experienced, eliciting a profound and emotional impact upon the observer.

One particular image that endures in the mind's eye was taken at the Thiksey Monastery in Ladakh, India. Here Fricke and Magidson encounter an intimate moment in which five monks are gathered together engaged in the ancient Buddhist tradition of mandala sand painting. In the background are a group of children who are intently transfixed by the ritualistic execution in the design of the iconographic symbols and application of the colored sand.

This photograph, taken by Magidson, demonstrates the filmmakers' masterful ability to unobtrusively immerse themselves in the inner sanctums of the monks' meditative lives to capture this potent, familial-like moment amongst the children and their elders. Inevitably, the mandala will be destroyed which serves as the metaphor for the impermanence of life - Samsara.

www.barakasamsara.com

www.opencenter.org/s-a-m-s-a-r-a

SAMSARA art exhibition is curated by Lola C. Shepard.

Bios:

Ron Fricke is an American film director and cinematographer, considered to be a master of time-lapse photography and large format cinematography. He was the director of photography for *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and directed and photographed the purely cinematic non-verbal, non-narrative feature *Baraka* (1992). He designed and used his own 70mm camera equipment for *Baraka* and his later projects. He also directed the IMAX film *Chronos* (1985) and *Sacred Site* (1986). His most recent work was as cinematographer for parts of the film *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. The follow up to *Baraka*, *Samsara*, will be released in theaters in August 2012.

Mark Magidson began in film production as co-producer of the acclaimed IMAX film *Chronos* (1985) with director/cinematographer Ron Fricke. *Chronos* was awarded the Grand Prix Award at the First Festival International du Film Omnimax de Paris (1987). Mark, with Director Ron Fricke, began developing the 70mm feature project that was to become *Baraka* (1992) which he produced, co-wrote, and co-edited. The film won numerous awards including the FIPRESCI (International critics) Award for Best Picture at the Montreal World Film Festival. Mark also received a nomination for Best Documentary Editing from the A.C.E. In 1995, he produced and directed *Toward the Within*, a theatrically released feature length documentary about the world music group Dead Can Dance.

About the New York Open Center Gallery

Re-established in 2010, the New York Open Center Gallery exhibits both emerging and mid-career contemporary artists whose body of work primarily focuses on world culture, spirituality, psychology and holistic consciousness. www.opencenter.org/gallery

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Gallery Hours: Mon, Wed - Fri / 11am-6pm