

To Jonas with Love

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18 - December 20, 2020

DAVID BELISLE	JIM JOE	SYLVIA PLACHY	MICHAEL STIPE
GORDON BALL	JEAN-JACQUES LEBEL	LEE RANALDO	CHUCK SMITH
JEM COHEN	ARI MARCOPOULOS	RAHA RAISSNIA	ED SANDERS
MIKE FIGGIS	JONAS MEKAS	BARBARA RUBIN	STEVEN SEBRING
DOUGLAS GORDON	BENN NORTHOVER	LEAH SINGER	AUGUSTE VARKALIS
KEN JACOBS	SHANNON PLUMB	ACCRA SHEPP	ANDY WARHOL
JERRY JOFEN	REY PARLA	STEPHEN SHORE	



Ki Smith Gallery is thrilled to announce *To Jonas with Love*, a multimedia exhibition honoring Jonas Mekas, curated by Chuck Smith and Benn Northover.

For over sixty years, from his earliest days living on Orchard Street in the 1950s until his passing in 2019, Lithuanian filmmaker, poet, and artist Jonas Mekas was a cultural icon of Downtown NYC and a passionate guardian of artistic freedom. As he wandered throughout the city with his ever-present camera, Jonas always sought glimpses of beauty and poetry amid the bustle of the streets.

Through his work and activism he stood as a guiding light for generations of artists and filmmakers. Along the way, he founded *Film Culture* magazine, the Filmmakers Co-op and Cinematheque, Anthology Film Archives, and the now-legendary Movie Journal column in *The Village Voice*. This month, Jonas's friends come together to celebrate the joy and inspiration that Jonas evoked and to remember his vibrant and undying poetic spirit. This exhibition features an eclectic mix of artists and filmmakers whose works either embody or directly respond to Jonas's tireless creativity and self-expression. *To Jonas with Love* will include a traditional gallery installation of photography, painting, drawing, and

sculpture at the new Ki Smith Gallery East Village (197 East 4th Street) as well as a film and video installation with projections and monitors at the Gallery's annex (181 Mott Street).

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a limited-edition publication showcasing the artworks alongside previously unreleased photos and written material by the artists and other members of Mekas's creative family. This unique celebration welcomes Jonas's spirit back to the downtown he loved, and to a world in desperate need of the beauty and wonder on which he founded his artistic landscape. The kaleidoscope of works that compose *To Jonas with Love* proves that despite the struggles New York has faced throughout the pandemic, this city that Jonas deeply loved is united and strong at heart.

We are limiting gallery capacity, so please contact claire@kismithgallery.com or visit our website to book an appointment. Masks are required!

A portion of sales from this exhibition will benefit Anthology Film Archives. A special thank you to the Lithuanian Culture Institute for their support of this tribute to Mekas's life and legacy.



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Gallery Hours:
12:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wed – Sat,
12:30 – 5:30 p.m. Sundays

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