

Ken McMullen

Visual Artist, Film Director

British filmmaker Ken McMullen is a singular voice – innovative, engaged, enquiring – in international cultural life. Through his features, documentaries, plays, exhibitions and teaching he breaks down boundaries, between art and science, thought and action, life and its representation.

James Leahy – Vertigo Magazine

Born in Manchester in 1948, Ken McMullen is an artist and award-winning experimental filmmaker based in London. His art practice draws on his engagement with contemporary physics and seeks to find new visual forms and topographies that visualize the deeply abstract concepts arising in particle physics producing art works across a number of mediums - sculpture, surface area montage, motion picture installation and expanded cinema, including live performance. His films are grounded in philosophy, history, psychoanalysis and literature. Trained as a fine artist, he continues to practice as a visual artist engaged in an interdisciplinary practice which has involved collaboration with physicists in CERN and SLAC, and with leading contemporary philosophers such as Jacques Derrida.

His research has been funded by the Arts Council, England; British Council; Cascais Centre Cultural, Portugal; CERN, Cine Gloria, Lisbon, Portugal; Cinemateque Francaise; European Cultural Fund; Fundação Dom Luís I, Portugal; Greek National Film Archive, SLAC, California, and PPARC (The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council).

McMullen's work is in the collections of MOMA New York; Metropolitan Museum New York; BFI London; Centre Pompidou Paris; British Council; Arts Council England; Arts Council Scotland; Gulbenkian Foundation; Cinemateque Francais; GNFA Athens and BBC/ARTE/C4.

He has written and directed over thirty documentary films and eight feature films: Resistance (1976), Ghost Dance (1983), Zina (1985), Partition (1987), 1871 (1990), Seven Sighs (1995), Organisation of Dreams (2009) and OXI (2013). A documentary created of José Mujica former president of Ecuador will be released in 2017 and a feature film of Hamlet is currently in production.

In recent live performances with film McMullen has explored integrating analogue and digital material, and he is currently articulating the possibility of non linear narrative construction with the use of accumulative content.