

# UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

## NEWS

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### **KERRY TRIBE'S *H.M.* EXPLORES NEUROSCIENCE AND EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKING AT UC IRVINE'S CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS UAG**

**IRVINE, Calif. (December 23, 2015)** -- The University Art Galleries at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts will host *H.M.* by visual artist Kerry Tribe. The installation is roughly an 18-minute loop that weaves together reenacted footage, found and animated elements and lies somewhere between an experimental documentary and an independent narrative film. The exhibition, focused on neuroscience and experimental filmmaking, will open Saturday, January 9 with a reception open to the public from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and will exhibit through Saturday, March 12, 2016. There will be a special roundtable event entitled "H.M. & The Aesthetics of Memory" featuring guest speakers Dr. James McGaugh, Kerry Tribe, and Dr. Juli Carson on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm in Winifred Smith Hall.

*H.M.* is a two-channel presentation of a single film based on the true story of an anonymous, memory-impaired man, the famous amnesiac known in scientific literature only as "Patient H.M." In 1953, when he was 27 years old, H.M. underwent experimental brain surgery intended to alleviate his epilepsy. The unintended result was a radical and persistent amnesia. Though he was no longer able to make lasting memories, his short-term recall, lasting about 20 seconds, remained intact. He lived anonymously in this condition for more than half a century until his death on December 2, 2008, in a Connecticut nursing home. His case is widely credited with revolutionizing our understanding of the organization of human memory.

*H.M.* consists of a single 16mm film that plays through two adjacent synchronized projectors with a 20 second delay between them; thus, the viewer sees two simultaneous side-by-side projections of two different parts of the same film reel. The structure of the installation and the nature of the material together produce a sensation of mnemonic dissonance much like that experienced by Patient H.M.

"What would an artwork on cognition – one equally mindful of the insights made by philosophy, metapsychology and neurobiology – look like? What would it do? Perhaps it would make us think about memory and narrative, our conscious and unconscious relation to history, and our subjective experience of space and time," stated Juli Carson, Artistic Director of the University Art Galleries. "In this way, Kerry Tribe's interdisciplinary artwork about memory paradoxically centers on what we don't know – the act of forgetting."



# UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

This exhibition and ancillary programming are made possible with generous support by UCI Illuminations and the 2014 Claire Trevor Commemorative Star Event.

The University Art Galleries are committed to promoting an inter-generational dialogue between 60s/70s neo-avant-garde art and contemporary visual culture. Accordingly, their curatorial mission is to keep an eye on the modernist past while promoting the most innovative aesthetic and political debates of the post-modern present. From this vantage, the projects commissioned provoke intelligent debate on the subject of art in its most expansive poetic definition. As UCI's creative laboratory, the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit [www.arts.uci.edu](http://www.arts.uci.edu).

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# UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

## **H.M. & THE AESTHETICS OF MEMORY**

ROUNDTABLE HOSTED BY UAG

Sponsored By UCI Illuminations: The Chancellor's Arts & Culture Initiative

**January 28, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Winfred Smith Hall**

**SPEAKERS: Dr. James McGaugh, Kerry Tribe, and Dr. Juli Carson**

On the interdisciplinary subject of neuroscience and experimental filmmaking, we are proud to mount an exhibition of Kerry Tribe's experimental film installation, *H.M.* in our University of California, Irvine Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, January 2016; and host a one evening conference on the subject of brain imaging, memory, learning and trauma on January 28, Winfred Smith Hall, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

*H.M.* is a two-channel presentation of a single film based on the true story of an anonymous, memory-impaired man known in scientific literature as "Patient H.M." In 1953, H.M. underwent experimental brain surgery to alleviate his epilepsy. The unintended result was a radical and persistent amnesia. Though he was no longer able to make lasting memories, his short-term recall, lasting about 20 seconds, remained intact. The film is played through two adjacent synchronized projectors with a 20 second delay between them, so the viewer sees two simultaneous side-by-side projections of the two different parts of the same reel of film. The structure of the installation and the nature of the material together produce a sensation of mnemonic dissonance much like that experienced by H.M.

The art exhibition and roundtable are free to the community. The UAG's goal is to blend the academic and local communities on the subject of art and neuroscience. The participants are: Dr. James McGaugh (Founder UCI Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and the first Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory), Kerry Tribe (Artist), and Dr. Juli Carson (Curator and Moderator).



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## Contributors



James McGaugh pioneered research investigating brain systems mediating the effects of drugs and stress hormones on memory consolidation. He was the first to use post training treatments to distinguish between learning and performance effects in studies of drug enhancement of memory. He is also recognized for revealing the role of the amygdala in regulating memory processes in Efferent brain regions. He founded the first Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and the first Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory.



Kerry Tribe's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at The Power Plant in Toronto, Modern Art, Oxford, Camden Arts Centre in London and Arnolfini in Bristol. It has been included in recent significant exhibitions at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C., The recipient of a Creative Capital grant and a USA Artists Award, her works is in the public collections of The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, The Hammer Museum, The Orange County Museum of Art and The Generali Foundation among others. She was a fellow at the American Academy in Berlin in 2005-2006 and received her MFA from UCLA in 2002.



Juli Carson is Professor of Art History in the Art Department at UC Irvine, the Founding Director of the Critical and Curatorial MFA Program, and Artistic Director of the University Art Galleries. Her most recent book is *The Limits of Representation: Psychoanalysis and Critical Aesthetics* (Buenos Aires: Letra Viva Press, 2011). Her forthcoming book is *The Conceptual Unconscious: A Poetics of Critique*, PoLyPen Press, a subsidiary of b.books Press. She is currently preparing a monograph on the work of Daniel Joseph Martinez.

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# UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

## Fact Sheet

### **Exhibition:**

*H.M.*

Kerry Tribe

January 9, 2016 – March 12, 2016

### **Location:**

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) Gallery

### **Description:**

*H.M.* is a double projection installation based on the true story of an anonymous, memory-impaired man, the famous amnesiac known in scientific literature only as "Patient H.M." This roughly 18-minute film loop weaves together reenacted, documentary, found and animated elements and lies somewhere between an experimental documentary and an independent narrative film.

### **Gallery Hours:**

Tuesday - Saturday from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Free Admission. Public is Welcome

### **Events:**

#### **Opening Reception**

January 9, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

#### **H.M. & The Aesthetics of Memory**

A Roundtable

Speakers: Dr. James McGaugh, Kerry Tribe, and Dr. Juli Carson

Thursday, January 28, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Winifred Smith Hall, Bldg 710

This roundtable addresses the interdisciplinary subject of neuroscience and experimental filmmaking on the subject of brain imaging, memory, learning and trauma.

### **Parking:**

Mesa Parking Structure, 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

### **More Info:**

[www.arts.uci.edu](http://www.arts.uci.edu) or <http://uaq.arts.uci.edu/exhibit/hm>

### **Note to editors:**

Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from

[UCI Google Drive](#)

(key to images attached)

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## *H.M.*

Kerry Tribe

January 9, 2016 – March 12, 2016

Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) Gallery

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Press Images: [UCI Google Drive](#)



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- (1) Kerry Tribe (Photo: Gene Pittman)
- (2) *H.M.*, 2009, Double projection of a single 16mm film, 18:30 minutes loop, Installation view, MoMA, New York. (Photo: Thomas Griesel)
- (3) *H.M.*, 2009, Double projection of a single 16mm film, 18:30, Minutes loop, Still from the film.
- (4) *H.M.*, 2009, Double projection of a single 16mm film, 18:30, Minutes loop, Still from the film.
- (5) Dr. James McGaugh, Research Professor, Neurobiology & Behavior (Photo: Steve Zylus / UC Irvine)
- (6) Dr. Juli Carson, Artistic Director of the University Art Galleries (Photo courtesy of UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts)

The images are approved only for publication in conjunction with promotion of the exhibition [H.M. by Kerry Tribe](#). Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing.