

Entertainment

## Video project adds new site location

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SYRACUSE — Light Work, in collaboration with the Connective Corridor and the Everson Museum of Art, is pleased to announce a new and exciting move for one of the three Urban Video Project sites to the Everson Museum of Art. To launch its fall season and celebrate this exciting venue change, UVP will present two videos by internationally renowned artist and Syracuse University alumnus Bill Viola at two of its sites beginning in September.

On Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m., the Urban Video Project, in conjunction with Light Work, the Connective Corridor and the Everson Museum of Art, will host a public presentation by artist Bill Viola and David Ross. According to Ross, "Bill Viola is that rare artist who employs extraordinary technical mastery in the service of a deeply metaphysical art. Exploring the essential human condition, Viola has long been engaged in the study of time, consciousness and the human spirit. Though not religious in any traditional sense, Viola's art embraces the idea of art as a path to transcendent experience."

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a reception in the plaza at the Everson where Viola's video will be screened on an outside wall of the museum. The Everson Museum of Art will also have more of Viola's work on view, curated from its collection.

The Urban Video Project will continue to run projections at both the Syracuse Stage and Onondaga Historical Association sites, but with this exhibition its third location will change permanently to the Everson Museum of Art building. This change brings the Urban Video Project to one of the anchors of the Connective Corridor, and marks a big step toward UVP's mission and goal of securing its place as an important international venue for the public presentation of video and electronic arts.

Viola is internationally recognized as one of today's leading artists. He has been instrumental in the establishment of video as a vital form of contemporary art, and in so doing has helped to greatly expand its scope in terms of technology, content and historical reach.

Bill Viola Studio has kindly agreed to lend exhibition copies of "The Quintet of the Astonished" and "Two Women," enlarged from their usual dimensions for these unique presentations at the two Urban Video Project locations.

"The Quintet of the Astonished" shows the unfolding expressions of five actors in such extreme slow motion that every minute detail of their changing facial expressions and movements can be detected.

Viola's work often exhibits a painterly quality and "The Quintet of the Astonished" clearly references his interests in medieval and classical depictions of emotion. In 1998, while a scholar in residence at the Getty Research Institute, which that year explored the theme of The Passions, Viola revisited images of medieval and Renaissance painting, frescoes and architecture that had influenced him during his time in Florence in 1974. Having lost both of his parents by the time he was at the Getty, he found himself drawn to images of devotional art that continue to influence his art today.

Two Women is part of an extended body of work titled the Transfigurations series. Inspired by his interest in the Buddhist idea of death as a passage to rebirth, Viola has filmed actors drenched in water and consumed by fire. In Viola's slow motion world the viewer senses not only the destructive and violent power of the elements, but their transformative and cathartic power as well. For Two Women the artist created a physical apparatus in his studio that allows the two actors to effortlessly pass through a wall of water. Viola is known for using a minimum of digital effects. The real time for this performance is only moments, but the finished

video is nine minutes long, allowing viewers time to savor the beauty of the moving water, light and figures.

For more information about any of these exhibitions, please contact Jessica Heckman at Light Work, 315-443-1300 or:

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