

Brent Green

Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then

April 17 - June 5, 2010

Opening reception: Saturday, April 17, 6 - 9 pm

Andrew Edlin Gallery is pleased to present Brent Green's *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, from April 17 through June 5, 2010. The show, his second solo exhibition in New York, coincides with the debut of his first feature-length film, of the same title, at IFC Center, New York, on May 7.

The exhibition and film both center around the true story of Leonard Wood, an unknown hardware-store clerk from Louisville, Kentucky, who worked tirelessly throughout the 1970s to create an original, bizarre (and since destroyed) residence. Wood hoped that his hodgepodge of unimaginably tiered floors, vaulted ceilings, and twisted, heaving walls might somehow save his wife, Mary, from her terminal cancer. Following her death, Wood tuned his healing machine for another twenty years, before toppling from its roof, leaving him broke and incapacitated.

For *Gravity*, Green rebuilt Wood's home along with four other houses, a handmade piano, a sixteen-foot glowing moon, and a giant, wooden God, on his rural Pennsylvania farm, following the crudely rendered plans Wood had scrawled on a piece of cardboard. For the exhibition, Green will install the full-scale house and its contents in the main gallery space, alongside a series of video projections and sculptures.

Green wrings hope from the discarded and disheveled to patch together a unique and personal Americana. His stop-motion animations, sculptures, and drawings hinge shakily around the paradox of life and death. His heroes—crooked, carved figures bathed in warm, flickering light, speak and sing - from intone to exaltation—of American folklore, the final days of Beethoven and Thomas Edison, of deviant children trapped in Hell. Green's work brings to mind the oeuvre of American artist/filmmaker Joseph Cornell (1903-1972), for its lack of guile and cobbled feel, while sharing an aesthetic affinity with Czech surrealist filmmaker Jan Svankmajer (b. 1934) and Swedish video artist Nathalie Djurberg (b.1978). However, his lyrical narration, and the cadence and twang of his voice—which tremors through his films—more closely recalls Bob Dylan. A passed-down Appalachian wisdom permeates Green's hardscrabble fables yet, where Dylan is authoritative and concealed as a storyteller, Green is commanding but exposed, sharing a deep connection with his characters.

Andrew Edlin GALLERY

About the artist

Brent Green was born in West Virginia in 1978; he now lives and works in Cressona, Pennsylvania. His work has been a regular feature at many film festivals, including Sundance (2006-09), BAM Next Wave (2007), and the Rotterdam International (2006). He has performed at the Wexner Center, Columbus (2006), the J. Paul Getty Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2006), and The Kitchen, New York (2008). Other recent solo exhibitions include: SITE Sante Fe (2009); Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (2008); Sculpture Center, Cleveland (2007); Bellwether Gallery, New York (2007). In 2005, Green was the recipient of a grant from Creative Capital.

Timeline of 2010 Events

In 2010, Green will present his work at several institutions across the U.S., including: Berkeley Art Museum (MATRIX program, opening May 2); SITE Sante Fe Biennial (June 20); American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, and Arizona State University Art Museum (both September); and DiverseWorks, Houston (Nov. 5). His films and live performances will also be hosted by: the Museum of Modern Art, New York (May 6 and 8); IFC Center, New York (May 7-14); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (June 18); Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley (June 16); Cornell Cinema, Ithaca (Sept. 24); EMPAC: Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, Troy (Sept. 10); and Cinema Arts Festival, Houston (December 10-14).

Special Programs

Friday, May 7, 7 pm: film premiere of *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue, New York.

Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm and Saturday, May 8, 4:30 pm: screening of *Paulina Hollers* (2006) featuring a live musical performance (May 6 only) by Brent Green and Brendan Canty (Fugazi), The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York.

For more information contact: Jane Wells

jane@edlingallery.com

212-206-9723