

FREE TUESDAY PROGRAM
May 7, 2013

Al Wong: *Twin Peaks*

SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater

Screenings every hour: Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Total run time: 50 min.

Museum and program admission are free.

Organized by Tanya Zimbaro, assistant curator of media arts, SFMOMA.

**Al Wong, *Twin Peaks*, 1977, 16mm film transferred to video, color, sound, 50 min.,
Courtesy the artist**

San Francisco native Al Wong recorded this meditative film over the course of a year. Taking the idea of the journey as its form, Wong's camera is set inside the van as he slowly drives the figure-eight road that winds around Twin Peaks in San Francisco at different times of the day. In one section of the film the view from each side of the windshield divider becomes out of sync, synthesizing Wong's interests in perception and the illusory nature of reality. A masterpiece of subtle shifts in light and tone, *Twin Peaks* will be shown continually over the course of the day, mirroring the structure of the film.

"I slowly gathered material and started to see all the natural elements — the sky, the earth, the water in the distance. It was then obvious that I had to get the sound of the ocean. One of my favorite places is Baker Beach, so the soundtrack was recorded there. It has this wonderful, deep breathing sound that keeps changing [...] The infinity loop road representing a continuous pattern of life. There are certain sequences in the film where it appears that the parts of the road aren't meeting and isn't a single road anymore. The road is shifting. Life is like that. It shifts and it makes you feel off-balance at times. You have trouble, and then you try to slip back in. And your breathing is still going." — Al Wong from *Sunlight and Shadows: Al Wong in Conversation*, SFMOMA Open Space, 2013

Al Wong:

Al Wong (born 1939, San Francisco) lives and works in the Sunset district. He received his MFA in 1972 from the San Francisco Art Institute, where he taught from 1975 until his retirement in 2003. Wong began showing his films in 1967 before turning to film-based performance and mixed-media installation a decade later, often exploring the ambiguity of the filmic surface and the interplay between projected shadows and actual performers or objects in the space. Since the late 1980s, his acrylic on netting pieces and works on paper derive from his earlier work in film projection by employing the use of light to reveal or obscure the image. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at The Whitney Museum of American Art, Collective for Living Cinema, The New Museum, Millenium, New York; Mini Galeria, Zurich; Nexus Foundation for Today's Art, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia; Gallery Tamura, Tokyo; Art/Tapes/22, Florence, among others. Wong has participated in numerous national and international film festivals, group programs and exhibitions. *Twin Peaks* was supported by a 1975 grant from the American Film Institute in association with the NEA and shown in spotlight screenings of Wong's work at such venues as SFMOMA (1977) and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1980).