



Of Coming Age
by
Matt Copson
CLEARING Los Angeles

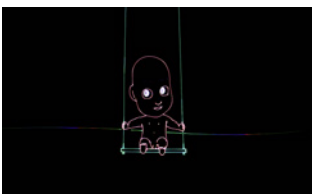
Matt Copson's animated ecosystems are constructed through cinematic light displays. These hallucinatory laser projections implicate both sentimental inertia and failed moralism, which Copson sews into his theatrical landscapes.

Of Coming Age is one out of three choreographed projections that amount to a kaleidoscopic trilogy in its entirety. The entire arch (comprising the aforementioned sequence as well as *Age of Coming* and *Coming of Age*) illustrates a baby protagonist's expanding cognizance, as the young one utters its first words, struggles against violence and the overabundance of information, and swings haplessly as cataclysms rage beyond. Avoidance, communion, flippancy, environmentalism, and melancholy are the operative factors comprising these "anti-fables." While the works are anachronistic by design, this tripartite saga amounts to Copson's recognition of the rote nihilism lodged in our collective conscience.

Any promise of a future is burdened by existential dread, as Copson's lights perform their sequence. *Of Coming Age* sees a hyperreal baby swinging to and fro, as the background oscillates between a catastrophic seascape and the world on fire. Environmental disaster is met by the young protagonist's apathy, instead resorting to frivolous play.

Copson's technological system is mechanical rather than digital, with lines constantly drawn out in front of the viewer - sympathetic to the momentum of the swing. The endless swing also alludes to the nature of continuous learning, which the baby is apparently subjected to... forever. Copson's light medium is also infused with the history of cave paintings as well as early cinematic tradition. The resulting projections are built around the interplay of visual effects and light, performing against Copson's sonic landscape. The song *Strange Situation*, a collaboration with Caroline Polachek, tracks a world one cannot necessarily see, namely the baby's internal landscape.

In 2023 he wrote and directed a new opera *Last Days* with music composed by Oliver Leith, adapted from Gus Van Sant's film of the same name. It premiered at the Royal Opera House (London) and will have its US premiere on 6th February 2024 with the LA Phil at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.



Matt Copson
Of Coming Age
2021
Laser animation with sound
5'55" looped
MCOP2110003

C L E A R I N G

Matt Copson (Born 1992 in Oxford, UK) lives and works in London and Los Angeles. He received his BFA from Slade School of Art, London, UK.

Solo exhibitions of his work have been held at High Art, Arles; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Swiss Institute, New York; Mönchehaus Museum, Gosler; Reading International, England; Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London; Tramps, London; Vilma Gold, London; High Art, Paris; Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York; and C L E A R I N G Brussels.

His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Baltic Triennial 14, Vilnius; the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne; Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE; IMMA, Dublin; CIRCA, Piccadilly Circus, London; ICA, London; Ca' Pesaro Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna, Venice; Tanya Leighton, Berlin; Timothy Taylor Gallery, New York; Rodeo, London; Sadie Coles, London; High Art, Paris; and C L E A R I N G New York and Brussels.

Matt Copson's work belongs to the collections of Collection of Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Fiorucci Art Trust, London; The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Samdani Art Foundation, Dhaka; and Xiao Hui Wang Art Museum, Suzhou.