

REGEN PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DOUG AITKEN

Psychic Debris Field

January 18 – February 22, 2025

Press preview with the artist: Saturday, January 18, 11:00 a.m.

Opening reception: Saturday, January 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Regen Projects is pleased to present *Psychic Debris Field*, an exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist **Doug Aitken**.



Image: Doug Aitken, *Woman's Profile with Desert Formations*, 2024. Mixed fabrics, 56 x 82 inches (142.2 x 208.3 cm).

In *Psychic Debris Field*, Aitken sets forth a poly-media composition of artworks that create a narrative which explores the juxtaposition of deep ecological history within our landscape and contemporary habitation. The artworks create a fever-dream interpretation of our landscape ranging from large-scale sculptures created from urban debris, light and sound installations, botanic artworks, and fabric works that seamlessly combine these mediums.

At the show's entrance, viewers are greeted by *P-22* (2024), a larger-than-life sculptural form of the famed wild western mountain lion which resided majestically in the Hollywood Hills for many years. The sculpture is made entirely out of foraged materials found within the urban landscape. These include microplastics washed up on the Pacific Coast, discarded freeway rubber repurposing used tires, composted seeds, and organic matter. Over eighty materials are compressed into strata to form the likeness of the mountain lion and condense it into a contemporary vessel comprised of the landscape around us.

The first room of the exhibition is anchored by three large sculptures of North American bison made from reclaimed computer packing foam. The stoic animals frozen as sculptures in their chalky white material command a presence empty of color and alluding to a phantom landscape, a Fata Morgana of an ecosystem that was. Yet somehow two of these artworks are in a state of continuous transformation, filled with fertile earth and vegetation, with plants and vines cascading from them and continuing the cycle of regrowth. In the third bison, cutaways reveal an interior of Styrofoam carved into machine-like shapes, suggesting microchips or an electronic infrastructure. Surrounding these are tapestries created during the making of *Lightscape*, Aitken's multimedia project including music, film, and installation components realized in collaboration with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. These hand-sewn and digitally printed wall works informed and acted as storyboards throughout the process. Each has the same repeating composition of a house, pool, and horizon. Together they construct a timeline of our continuously altered landscape from pre-human to ideas of post-human occupation.

In the second room, an encompassing installation generates a tableau of the North American landscape which deploys light, a vocal original composition, and sculpture in an immersive choreography. The sound collage repeats the phrases:

When I move I see things more clearly...

When I move

When I move I see

When I move I see things

When I move I see things more clearly

Clearly

The vocal patterns that cycle and repeat in different inflections range from violence to warmth. For Aitken, the patterns of the song evoke the minimal language of Samuel Beckett, Bruce Nauman, and Joan Didion. This room is dramatically darker, and as the viewer's eyes adjust, a primary central sculpture of two large stags colliding, their interlocking horns glowing with an ever-changing radiating light, becomes clear. Other figures then emerge: cacti crafted from rusted Cor-ten steel; an ice machine containing live cactus plants; a bus stop; indigenous birds — all suggesting a mysterious, variegated landscape. Here, the material and dematerial flow through an infinite range of auditory, visual, and spatial possibilities. As the lighting changes, the song cycle progresses to form a haunting liminal space that appears to exist somewhere between the natural and built environments. The composition of light and sound become our narrative structure as the sculptures within the

REGEN PROJECTS

space speak to each other in a surreal connectivity.

In a small separate gallery, a sculptural totem of three mountain lions and crates create an abstraction as each form twists and spirals upwards. Their bodies consist of hundreds of thousands of seeds and organic materials. Lining the gallery's long corridor are three of Aitken's iconic *Aperture* lightboxes, emphasizing the contrasts between dark and light, interior and exterior space.

Lightscape premiered at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on November 16 with the film accompanied by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. *Lightscape* as a large-scale multi-screen installation is currently at the Marciano Art Foundation where it will remain on view through March 15, 2025.

—

Doug Aitken (b. 1968, Redondo Beach, CA) studied at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, where he received his BFA in 1991.

He has exhibited extensively worldwide. *Lightscape*, Aitken's newest multimedia artwork, is currently on view at the Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles until March 15, 2025, and *Doug Aitken: Naked City* is at Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul until August 17, 2025. Previous solo exhibitions include *Doug Aitken: RETURN TO THE REAL*, Schauwerk Sindelfingen, Sindelfingen (2023); *Doug Aitken: Flags and Debris*, The Israel Museum, Tel Aviv (2022); *Doug Aitken: New Era*, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney (2022); Faurshou Foundation, Beijing (2019); Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen (2018); *Electric Earth*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2016), which traveled to Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth (2017); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2015); *Mirror*, Seattle Museum of Art, Seattle (2013); *Song I*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2012); *The Source*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool (2012); *Altered Earth*, LUMA Foundation, Arles (2012); *Black Mirror*, Deste Foundation, Hydra (2011); *Frontier*, Isola Tiberina, Rome (2009); *Sonic Pavilion*, Inhotim Contemporary Art Center, Brumadinho (2009); and *Sleepwalkers*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2007).

Aitken has realized a number of special projects including, *New Horizon*, a multifaceted art event centered around a reflective hot air balloon that traveled across the state of Massachusetts (2019); *Sonic Mountain (Sonoma)*, a site-specific sound sculpture commissioned for the Donum Estate in Sonoma, CA (2019); *Don't Forget to Breathe*, an offsite installation in an empty storefront on Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles and presented by Regen Projects (2019); *Mirage*, a mirrored house with iterations in the Swiss Alps of Gstaad (2019), the interior of the historic former State Savings Bank in Detroit (2018), and the desert of Palm Springs, CA for Desert X (2017); *Underwater Pavilions*, a large-scale underwater sculptural installation off the coast of Catalina Island (2017); and *Station to Station*, a multi-site, month-long journey across America that brought together an international group of artists, musicians, writers, and thinkers (2013).

Works by the artist are held in permanent collections of art institutions worldwide including Art Institute of Chicago; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Centre pour l'Image Contemporaine, Geneva; Dallas Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; La Colección Jumex, Mexico City; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Seattle Art Museum; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; among others.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including ArtCenter College of Design *Lifetime Achievement Award* (2019); World Frontiers Forum *Frontier Art Prize* (2017); and Americans for the Arts *Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award* (2016).

Aitken lives and works in Los Angeles.

For all press inquiries, please contact +1 310 276 5424 or email press@regenprojects.com.

For all other inquiries, please contact Jennifer Loh, Stephanie Dudzinski, Magnus Edensvard, Laila Pedro, Anthony Salvador, or Matthew Salazar at inquiries@regenprojects.com.