

THOMAS DANE GALLERY

Bruce Conner
THE WHITE ROSE

Private view: Saturday 17 September 2 – 6pm
Exhibition dates: 20 September – 12 November 2022

Thomas Dane Gallery
11 Duke Street St James's, London SW1

Thomas Dane Gallery is pleased to announce the first UK exhibition of Bruce Conner's film *THE WHITE ROSE* (1967), following on from the Gallery's presentations of *BREAKAWAY* in 2019-2020, *A MOVIE* in 2017 and *CROSSROADS* in 2015.

A work born of Conner's profound friendship with artist Jay DeFeo (1929–1989), *THE WHITE ROSE* captures the deposition and removal of DeFeo's eponymous painting from her first-floor San Francisco apartment in 1965, a monumental work that she began in the late 1950s and worked on obsessively for eight years, eventually layering over two thousand pounds of paint onto the canvas.

The intimate black and white film captures the fabled painting's last moments in the apartment's bay window recess, a space covered in chunks of paint as though an extension of the work, which Conner likened to a site-specific environment and "a temple". Sutured by Conner's sharp, rhythmic editing and set to music from Miles Davis's album *Sketches of Spain*, *THE WHITE ROSE* is a tender document of artistic friendship, and an affectionate record of a key moment in Beat Generation art history.

Bruce Conner (b. 1933 McPherson, KS, d. San Francisco, CA, 2008) was one of the foremost American artists of the twentieth century, whose transformative work touched on themes of post-war American society, from a rising consumer culture to the dread of nuclear apocalypse. Working in a range of mediums, Conner created hybrids of painting and sculpture, film and performance, drawing and printing, including works on paper utilising drawing and collage. Conner came to San Francisco on the wave of the Beat Generation of the late 1950s, becoming an active member of the music scene during the late 1960s. In San Francisco, Conner became a singular practitioner within the underground film community and the flourishing San Francisco art world, achieving international status early in his career. Conner received his BFA from Nebraska University before studying at the Brooklyn Museum Art School and the University of Colorado.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Bruce Conner: Light Out Of Darkness*, Museum Tinguely, Basel (2021); *Please Enjoy and Return: Bruce Conner Films from the Sixties*, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque NM (2018); *Bruce Conner: Untitled Prints*, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle WA (2018); *Forever and Ever*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville KY (2017); *A MOVIE*, Thomas Dane Gallery, London, England (2017); *Bruce Conner: It's All True*, Museum of Modern Art, New York NY; travelled to: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco CA, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain (2016/17), among many others.

Selected public collections include: Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA; Museum of Modern Art, New York NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco CA; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York NY; Glenstone Museum, Potomac MD.

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Friday 11am–6pm, Saturday 12pm–6pm, or by appointment

Admission: Free

Tel: +44 (0) 20 79252505

Nearest Tube: Green Park or Piccadilly Circus

Instagram: [@thomasdanegallery](https://www.instagram.com/thomasdanegallery)

Twitter: [@ThomasDaneLDN](https://twitter.com/ThomasDaneLDN)

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