

About Dia Art Foundation

Founded in 1974, Dia Art Foundation is committed to initiating, supporting, presenting, and preserving extraordinary art projects. Dia:Beacon opened in May 2003 in Beacon, New York. Dia also maintains several long-term sites, including Walter De Maria's *The New York Earth Room* (1977) and *The Broken Kilometer* (1979), Max Neuhaus's *Times Square* (1977), Joseph Beuys's *7000 Eichen* (*7000 Oaks*, which was inaugurated at Documenta 7 in 1982), and Dan Flavin's *untitled* (1996), all of which are located in New York City; the Dan Flavin Art Institute (established in 1983) in Bridgehampton, New York; De Maria's *The Lightning Field* (1977) in western New Mexico; Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* (1970) in Great Salt Lake, Utah; and De Maria's *The Vertical Earth Kilometer* (1977) in Kassel, Germany.

Dia currently presents temporary exhibitions, performances, lectures, and readings on West 22nd Street in New York City. www.diaart.org

About EAI

Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2016, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is a nonprofit arts organization that fosters the creation, exhibition, distribution, and preservation of moving image art. A New York-based international resource for media art and artists, EAI holds a major collection of over 3,500 new and historical media artworks, from groundbreaking early video by pioneering figures of the 1960s to new digital projects by today's emerging artists. EAI works closely with artists, museums, schools, and other venues worldwide to preserve and provide access to this significant archive. EAI services also include viewing access, educational initiatives, extensive online resources, technical facilities, and public programs such as artists' talks, screenings, and multimedia performances. EAI's Online Catalogue is a comprehensive resource on the artists and works in the EAI collection, and features expansive materials on media art's histories and current practices. www.eai.org

Joan Jonas

Volcano Saga (1989)



February 11, 2016

Dia Art Foundation
and Electronic Arts Intermix



Joan Jonas:

Volcano Saga (1989)

Dia Art Foundation and **Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI)** are pleased to present a special screening of artist Joan Jonas's *Volcano Saga* (1989). Based on the thirteenth-century Icelandic *Laxdeala Saga*, this narrative reverie is a televisual retelling of a medieval myth about a young woman (played by Tilda Swinton) whose dreams foretell the future.

Program

Volcano Saga, 1989, 28 min, color, sound

Originally performed live, *Volcano Saga* featured artist Joan Jonas on stage narrating an Icelandic folktale about a woman named Gudrun, whose adventures revolved around four mysterious dreams that required the services of a soothsayer. Projections of Iceland's landscape created a visual backdrop.

Jonas translated this performance into video. Shot in the dramatic natural landscapes of Iceland and New York, this 28-minute video features Tilda Swinton as Gudrun. Employing layered digital effects, Jonas creates a ritualistic dreamscape of the young woman's imagination and desires.

Directors of Photography: Toon Illegems, Jules Backus. Music: Alvin Lucier, Jon Cooper. Editors: Robert Burden, Kathryn High, Joan Jonas, Branda Miller, Jill Kroesen. With: Tilda Swinton, Ron Vawter, Joan Jonas. Narration: Ruth Maleczech. Produced by Joan Jonas and Alan Kleinberg. Coproduced by Continental Video, Antwerp. Produced in association with New Television, WNET/WGBH.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the artist moderated by Dia associate curator Kelly Kivland.

Joan Jonas was born in New York in 1936. After receiving an MFA from Columbia University, Jonas went on to become a preeminent figure in the video and performance art movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Her acclaimed multimedia work encompasses performance, installation, video, sound, text, and drawing.

Jonas has performed at venues worldwide, including The Kitchen, New York (1974, 1977, 2004), Documenta, Kassel (1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 2002, 2012), and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1987). Her site-specific video installation, titled *The Shape, the Scent, the Feel of Things*, was presented at Dia:Beacon in 2005 and 2006. She represented the United States at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015), and a recent retrospective of her work was presented at Malmö Konsthall in Sweden (2015–16). An exhibition of her work is currently on view at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore). Jonas is professor emerita at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. She lives and works in New York.