



The **Speed** Art Museum

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## For Immediate Release

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Photo credit, Gene Pittman for Walker Art Center

## Speed Art Museum Appoints Dean Otto as Curator of Film for New State-of-the-Art Cinema

**September 24, 2015 (Louisville, KY)** — The Speed Art Museum announced today that Dean Otto has been hired as the Curator of Film for what will be the Museum’s newest attraction, the Speed Cinema. Otto will officially begin his new role at the Speed this fall. "I'm honored and thrilled to establish a new film program at the Speed Art Museum, especially during the historic reopening of the expansion," said Otto. "I'm looking forward to launching an engaging and diverse program of weekend runs that include art house films, future partnerships with area film festivals and universities, films for children, outdoor screenings, experimental cinema and more. Working with the community to create a vibrant new home for cinema in Louisville is especially exciting to me."

Ghislain d’Humières, Chief Executive Officer of the Speed Art Museum, said, “On behalf of the Speed Art Museum’s Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, and entire staff, I am so pleased to welcome Dean to the Speed and to Louisville. We have found the perfect person to become the Museum’s first Curator of Film. Dean’s extraordinary breadth of expertise and his record of developing film programs that engage and challenge will be a dynamic addition to the Museum. Dean’s success at creating partnerships with other leading film programs, with universities, and with community groups will ensure that the Speed Cinema also becomes a wide-reaching community resource.”

Otto was with the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for over 24 years in various positions from Program Manager to Associate Curator, Film/Video. Over his 20 years in Moving Image at Walker he programmed the 19-part Rainer Werner Fassbinder film retrospective, co-curated the exhibition *The Parade* featuring the work of Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg which toured to the New Museum and the

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, managed the international tour of the series *Magnetic North* at 17 sites, and coordinated the residencies of Arthur Dong, Christian Marclay and Craig Baldwin.

Through the Premieres: First Look program he hosted artists such as Spike Lee, Miranda July, Debra Granik, Jem Cohen, Rahmin Bahrani and Guy Maddin. He co-curated the Expanding the Frame series at Walker, introducing audiences to new work by Bruce McClure, Daniel Barrow, Luther Price and Ben Russell and co-curated the Artists' Cinema series which brought artists and curators to the Walker such as Gillian Wearing, Michael Robinson, Kerry Tribe and Ed Halter.

Otto organized many interdisciplinary programs, such as the annual Summer Music & Movies series that involved commissioning local bands to create new scores for silent films. He also created a number of partnerships with area universities to deepen the audience engagement with film, including the recent retrospective and visit by Oscar-nominated director Abderrahmane Sissako. In addition, Otto co-curated MNTV, an annual series of work by Minnesota-based on Twin Cities Public Television. He curated the Walker's Queer Takes program after serving as the programmer for the Minneapolis/St. Paul LGBT Film Festival for several years for Minnesota Film Arts. He grew the audiences for the annual British Arrows program to over 27,000. He also served as President of the Board of Midwest Media Artists' Access Center in St. Paul during his two-year term.

"The Speed Museum is fortunate to have the experience, creativity and energy that Dean brings to Louisville. His deep roots in film and the community will be a great benefit to the Speed's dynamic new cinema", said Owsley Brown III, Speed Museum benefactor and filmmaker.

The new 142-seat Speed Cinema is scheduled to launch in conjunction with the grand reopening of the Museum on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The cinema will be a state-of-the-art facility that will have the capability to show 16mm, 35mm, and digital film. James Bond, who designed the Gene Siskel Film Center, University of Chicago and Harvard Film Archive, oversaw the design of the Speed cinema.

### **About the Speed Art Museum**

The Speed Art Museum is Kentucky's largest art museum with a collection that spans 6,000 years of human creativity. An independent museum located on the campus of the University of Louisville, the Speed continues to play an important role in outreach initiatives, workshops, and art-related school programs. The Museum is situated at a crossroads between the city and the University of Louisville, adjacent to the busiest pedestrian thoroughfare on the University's campus. The Speed is currently closed and undergoing a multi-phase expansion and renovation that includes a new North and South Building, 142-seat cinema, Art Park and a public Piazza. To view a virtual tour or for more information visit [www.speedmuseum.org](http://www.speedmuseum.org).

Although the Museum is closed for the renovation and expansion until the spring of 2016, "Local Speed" – the Museum's temporary home - was established in downtown Louisville's trendy Nulu district at 822 East Market Street. The Nulu space has 6,000 sq. ft. of special exhibit and programming areas as well as administrative offices for museum staff. Local Speed is free and open to the public Friday 12 p.m. – 8p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Speed Art Museum will officially reopen its doors to the public on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The Museum will remain open for 30 straight hours of events and festivities, immediately following an opening ceremony.

For more information on upcoming programs and events, visit [www.speedmuseum.org](http://www.speedmuseum.org), friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter: @speedartmuseum.

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