



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Michael Stipe & Dominic DeJoseph, *We All Go Back To Where We Belong*, John, 2011 (still). Courtesy of the artists.

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

***WE ALL GO BACK TO WHERE WE BELONG, JOHN* BY MICHAEL STIPE AND DOMINIC DeJOSEPH**

AS PART OF *UGO RONDINONE: I ♥ JOHN GIORNO*

JUNE 21 – AUGUST 2, 2017
DAILY BEGINNING AT 7 PM
ON THE HIGH LINE AT 14TH STREET

New York, NY (June 20, 2017) – This summer, 12 leading non-profit and alternative art spaces in New York will co-host a city-wide exhibition of the work of pioneering artist John Giorno, curated by Ugo Rondinone. As part of the festival, High Line Art – presented by Friends of the High Line – is pleased to screen a video portrait in the style of Andy Warhol’s *Screen Tests* by Michael Stipe and Dominic DeJoseph and starring John Giorno.

In 2011, Michael Stipe and Dominic DeJoseph directed two video pieces for this song, one with Kirsten Dunst and another with Giorno. Upon their release, these stark, simple portraits became the final visual representation for the band R.E.M.

Stipe explains the creation of the videos: “I first met John Giorno in the mid-1990s at a small party in Kansas for his great friend William Burroughs. He was easily one of the most charismatic and physically stunning men I had ever had the pleasure to meet. Many years later, in New York, I went to the opening of *Andy Warhol: Screen Tests* at the Museum of Modern Art. I saw John standing alone, quietly, in the middle of a crowded room. I approached him, we spoke, he hugged me, and that was that. In 2011, my band R.E.M. was writing the last three songs we would ever record—I was struggling to finish the lyrics—and I woke up one night in the middle of a dream. In the dream I had





approached John and my neighbor, the actress Kirsten Dunst, and asked them each if they would participate in a video piece to accompany the song. Without hesitation they both said yes. In *We All Go Back To Where We Belong, John*, I asked John to sit quietly for the length of the song. I hit ‘record’ on the video camera, and surprised him by singing the song a cappella as we filmed. His reaction is just what I had hoped for—surprise, delight, embarrassment, a calm amusement—exactly like my dream. The song has been performed three times—once for John, once for Kirsten and once at Carnegie Hall.”

Learn more about the festival at ilovejohngiorno.nyc.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape. For further information on High Line Art, please visit art.thehighline.org.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line’s annual budget.

Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

SUPPORT

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Ugo Rondinone: I ♥ John Giorno is made possible in part by public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council. The *I ♥ John Giorno* organizing committee gratefully acknowledges generous support from Van Cleef & Arpels, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and LUMA Foundation. Thanks to Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, London, New York and Paris; Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York; Esther Schipper, Berlin; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, New York and Zürich; Gladstone Gallery, Brussels and New York; Galerie Kamel Mennour, London and Paris; Kukje Gallery, Seoul; and Sadie Coles, London for production support. Additional thanks to Ophelia and Bill Rudin as well as the General Consulate of Switzerland in New York for their gracious contribution, and to agnès b. for in kind support.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION

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