

## Janet Biggs

### *Fade to White*

2010

Single-channel HD digital video

12:28 minutes

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Janet Biggs is known primarily for her work in video, photography and performance. She lives and works in New York City. She has captured such events as speeding motorcycles on the Bonneville salt flats, horses galloping on treadmills, Olympic synchronized swimmers in their attempts to defy gravity, and kayakers performing a synchronized ballet in Arctic waters. Her work has been exhibited, among other institutions, at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; Gibbes Museum of Art, South Carolina; Rhode Island School of Design Museum; Vantaa Art Museum, Finland; Linköpings Konsthall, Passagen, Sweden; the Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum, Austria; and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Australia.

*Fade to White* is the first film in Biggs' series "The Arctic Trilogy." Over the course of two years, Biggs has traveled to Svalbard, a group of islands between the top of Europe and the North Pole. Filming in extreme conditions in one of the most remote and least-forgiving places in the world, Biggs created three stunning videos that explore longing, mortality, and our futile fight against nature. *Fade to White*, deals with the unachievable desire of discovery on an already exploited planet. Traveling aboard a 100-year-old, two-masted schooner in the Arctic, Biggs filmed a member of the crew as he navigated the sailing ship through iceberg filled seas and paddled a kayak past glacier walls and polar bears. Testing her own will and endurance in this harsh environment, she captured a landscape of uncompromising imagery. Loss and change are implicit in the work's title, "Fade to White," which can refer to an editing technique used to evoke death or transcendence. Biggs integrated her Arctic imagery with video of countertenor John Kelly, whose age, androgyny, and mournful operatic voice parallel the vanishing Arctic landscape and signal the waning of male dominance.

#### ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 2001, the gallery was launched as Plus Ultra Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Our inaugural exhibition, a group show about sleaze culture and a direct critique of the ongoing Disneyfication of New York City, received a rave review in The New York Times. Subsequent gallery exhibitions have been reviewed in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Flash Art*, *The New Yorker*, *Time Out New York*, *Art on Paper*, and many other art publications. In 2006 Murat Orozobekov became co-owner with Edward Winkleman. The gallery has participated in art fairs such as The Armory Show, ARCO, Art Chicago, Pulse, Year 06, Aqua, Independent, and NADA, and gallery artists have exhibited in some of the world's most important venues and exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale, the Whitney Biennial, the Vienna Kunsthalle, The Art Institute in of Chicago, the Getty Center Museum in Los Angeles, the Singapore Biennale, and the Sharjah Biennial.

#### Winkleman Gallery

621 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

#### Contact:

Edward Winkleman Co-Owner  
Murat Orozobekov, Co-Owner

T: (1) 212.643.3152  
E: [info@winkleman.com](mailto:info@winkleman.com)  
W: [www.winkleman.com](http://www.winkleman.com)