

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Lia Gangitano, 212 254 4334

15 June 2004

SAUL LEVINE  
*DARK LIGHT*

June 24 - July 25, 2004  
Opening Reception: Thursday, June 24, 7-9pm

From June 24 - July 25, 2004, PARTICIPANT INC presents *DARK LIGHT*, an exhibition by SAUL LEVINE. Organized in conjunction with a screening series of Levine's films at Anthology Film Archives, NY, PARTICIPANT INC showcases a large-scale installation of over 800 altered lightbulbs. Each object is a combination of light and image, composed by melting images found on plastic bags or wrappers onto lightbulbs, an uncontrolled process highly dictated by chance. Levine's consciously compulsive practice is conceptually related to the filmmaking process in its attention to individual frames and patterns, whose cumulative effect is maximized by their dispersion in space. Like still marks against time, the mass of flickering and dormant bulbs renegotiates the notion of nonlinear film.

A legend of small gauge filmmaking, Levine's practice spans four decades and includes films in Super 8, regular 8, and 16mm as well as video and live performance. His work also includes collage and installation, the material focus of *DARK LIGHT*. His dissonant raps, audiovisual poetry and messages to friends are episodes "in which radical content meets radical form" (program notes, *Independent America, New Film 1978-88*, American Museum of the Moving Image). In *DARK LIGHT*, this meeting is expressed through dramatically essential means, with each bulb representing the sensuality of the filmmaking experience. Installing the bulbs with flashers further dramatizes the image-making process of film, creating images by adding (or, in this case, subtracting) darkness and light. Borrowing equally from the ordinary notion of the lightbulb as icon of the idea and his ongoing involvement with the filmmaking process, Levine creates a cumulative statement on his incessant, intimate practice of creating film "notes," manifesting his unexalted approach to filmmaking.

Film historian P. Adams Sitney has noted: "Saul Levine is the foremost dissenting filmmaker in America. With about 35 years of consistent production behind him, and no signs of fatigue, he can show us the shape of a life passionately and uncompromisingly devoted to filmmaking. His works are high-energy messages of friendship, records of sexual love and political activism, radiated by humor, prophetic anger, loneliness and even though rarely, representing repose. [...] His incessant, chaotic outpouring of political energy seems less geared to a naïve notion of bettering the world than to a perpetual pressure to keep it from getting worse."

Saul Levine has been making films and more recently videos since 1964. He has taught at the Massachusetts College of Art for over 25 years. His work has been screened internationally including the Museum of Modern Art's *Big as Life: An American History of 8mm Film*; The New York Film Festival's *Views from the Avant-Garde*; Anthology Film Archives, NY; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Cinémathèque Française, Musée du Cinéma, Paris; Knocketteise International Film Festival, Belgium; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Harvard Film Archives, Cambridge, MA; and Mass Art Film Society, Boston, MA.

Saul Levine's screenings at Anthology Film Archives: July 22-25, 2004.

PARTICIPANT INC's exhibitions are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.  
PARTICIPANT INC has received generous support from the Harriett Ames Charitable Trust, Bloomberg, Materials for the Arts-NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, The MAT Charitable Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and numerous individuals.

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 95 Rivington Street, between Ludlow and Orchard Streets on the Lower East Side.  
Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-7pm.