

No. 158  
October 17, 2003  
Immediate Release

**Press Contact:**

Karen Gysin  
612.375.7651  
karen.gysin@  
walkerart.org

**NOVEMBER FREE THURSDAYS OFFER TOURS, FILMS BY FREDERICK WISEMAN, A POETRY READING BY PETER GIZZI, A COMMUNITY FORUM ON PUBLIC ART IN THE TWIN CITIES, AND PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES**

A wide range of programming is available at November Free Thursdays (November 6, 13, and 20) at the Walker Art Center. The month of free events includes screenings from the monthlong series Frederick Wiseman: A Sense of Place, beginning with *High School* at 1 pm and *Basic Training* at 8 pm (which also screens as part of the ongoing monthly series War, Peace, and Resistance: A Film Series) on November 6. Wiseman's *High School II* will screen at 10:15 am on November 20. Also on November 6, poet Peter Gizzi will take part in a Free Verse by reading from his newest collection *Some Values of Landscape and Weather* at 7 pm. Director Spencer Nakasako will be on hand to introduce his latest documentary *Refugee* at 7 pm on November 13, which follows three refugees from San Francisco as they return to Cambodia. The month's events conclude on November 20 with a Better Looking gallery talk at 1 and 6 pm that explores how a viewer's perspective or point of view can determine an artwork's meaning. Also on November 20, the Walker will host a community forum on the state of public art in the Twin Cities. The panel of local administrators will be moderated by Jack Becker of FORECAST Public Artworks. On consecutive Thursdays (November 6, 13, 20), local artists will lead classes on photography using works in *The Last Picture Show, Artists Using Photography 1960-1982* as inspiration. In addition, afternoon and evening tours take place each Thursday and galleries remain open until 9 pm. For information on these and other Walker events, call 612.375.7622 or visit [www.walkerart.org/tickets/](http://www.walkerart.org/tickets/).

(more)

## Free Thursdays

November 6, 13, 20 (closed Thanksgiving Day)  
Galleries open 10 am–9 pm; special events follow.  
Free

## November 6

### Tours

Meet in the lobby.

*The Last Picture Show: Artists Using Photography, 1960-1982*, 1 pm

*The Last Picture Show: Artists Using Photography, 1960-1982*, 6 pm

### Free Film: *High School*, 1 pm, Auditorium

Directed by Frederick Wiseman

"The most frightening thing about *High School* is that it captures the battlefield so clearly; the film is too true" (*Newsweek*). This documentary shows us that a school system exists not only to pass on facts but, ideally, to transmit social values from one generation to another. In 1968, roaming through a large school in Philadelphia, Wiseman captures on film a series of formal and informal clashes between teachers, students, parents, and administrators through which the ideology and values of the school emerge. Spoofed in Wes Anderson's 1998 feature *Rushmore*, Wiseman's film is a wicked, brilliant documentary. 1968, U.S., BW, 16mm, 75 minutes.

This screening is part of the Regis Dialogue and Retrospective Frederick Wiseman: A Sense of Place

### Free Class: *Self-Portraiture and Identity*, 6–9 pm, Art Lab

Investigate ways to document yourself and your identity using Polaroid cameras and film manipulation techniques. Led by local photographer Celeste Nelms. Class participation is free, but space is limited; call 612.375.7622 to reserve a space. No equipment or prior knowledge of photography required.

### Free Verse: *Peter Gizzi*, 7 pm, Lecture Room

John Ashbery writes that Peter Gizzi's poems are "simultaneously all over the page and right on target. He is the most exciting poet to come along in quite a while." Gizzi reads from his visionary new work *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, a volume that revives poetic architectures such as elegy, song, and litany to build "a comprehensive music" against a backdrop of political, social, and ethical values. Gizzi is the author of *Artificial Heart* and numerous other volumes of poetry; he is also the editor of *The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer*. In 1994 he received the prestigious Lavan younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets. He currently teaches at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Cosponsored by *Rain Taxi Review of Books*.

### Free Film: *Basic Training*, 8 pm, Auditorium

Directed by Frederick Wiseman

Wiseman uncovers human conditions in inhuman situations. By showing us the marching, the hand-to-hand combat, the loss of identity, he conveys the humor and sadness of the situation. *Basic Training* follows a company of draftees and enlisted men through the drills and weapons training that converts civilians into soldiers. 1971, U.S. BW, 16mm, 89 minutes.

Free Thursdays, page 3

This screening is part of the Regis Dialogue and Retrospective Frederick Wiseman: A Sense of Place, as well as the ongoing monthly series War, Peace, and Resistance: A Film Series.

## November 13

### Tours

Meet in the lobby.

*The Squared Circle: Boxing in Contemporary Art*, 1 pm

*The Last Picture Show: Artists Using Photography, 1960-1982*, 6 pm

### Free Film: *Refugee*, 10:30 am and 7 pm, Auditorium

Introduced by director Spencer Nakasako and Mike Siv

In his latest documentary, Emmy Award-winning director Spencer Nakasako follows three young refugees from San Francisco's Tenderloin district as they return to Cambodia for the first time to "see the sights, visit family, and have some fun." From the hassles of preparing for the journey to their arrival and anxious meeting of family members, the film reveals the reunion of people torn apart from loved ones by war and years of separation. Following the screening, meet Nakasako and Mike Siv, *Refugee's* central character, for a Q&A session. 2003, U.S., video, color, 61 minutes. Preceded by *This is Who I Became*, codirected by Mike Siv and Aram Collier. 2003, U.S., color, video, 20 minutes.

This screening is presented in partnership with the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

### Free Class: Photography and Performance, 6-9 pm, Art Lab

Use simple digital photography to document idea-based actions. Led by local artist Karl Raschke. Class participation is free, but space is limited; call 612.375.7622 to reserve a space. No equipment or prior knowledge of photography required.

## November 20

### Better Looking: Point/Counterpoint, 1 and 6 pm

One of the exciting things about contemporary art is that so much of its meaning depends on the viewer's perspective, point of view, and experience. Join two tour guides for this zesty, stimulating discussion as each presents viewpoints on some of the most thought-provoking works in the galleries.

### Free Film: *High School II*, 10:15 am, Auditorium

Directed by Frederick Wiseman

Made 16 years after *High School*, this epic documentary brings Wiseman to Central Park East Secondary School, an alternative high school in New York's Spanish Harlem that sends 85 to 95% of its graduates on to four-year colleges. The film illustrates the school's emphasis on "Habits of Mind"—weighing evidence, awareness of multiple points of view, seeing connections and relationships, speculating on possibilities, and assessing values. This approach, which parallels Wiseman's documentary methods, urges students to talk, listen, and think for themselves. 1994, U.S., color, 16mm, 220 minutes. There will be a half-hour break at 12 noon.

(more)

Free Thursdays, page 4

Free study guides are available for school groups viewing *High School II*. For information contact Susan Rotilie, 612.375.7614. For information on scheduling a tour group call 612.375.7609 or e-mail [education.resources@walkerart.org](mailto:education.resources@walkerart.org).

**Free Class: Appropriation and the Found Image. 6-9 pm, Art Lab**

Working with pictures from newspapers, art books, family albums, and other sources, give new meaning to old images. Participants may bring their own found images or use materials provided. Led by local artist Coleman Miller. Class participation is free, but space is limited; call 612.375.7622 to reserve a space. No equipment or prior knowledge of photography required.

**Community Forum: The State of Public Art in the Twin Cities. 7 pm. Auditorium**

Public art administrators and creators face daily challenges outside the walls of galleries and studios. Join in a lively discussion about recent national developments in the field and explore essential questions raised by public art in the Twin Cities: who makes it, why is it important, and how can it transform our public spaces? Panelists include Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator for the City of Minneapolis; Roger Cummings of Juxtaposition Arts; Christine Podas-Larson, Director of Public Art Saint Paul; Janet Abrams, Director of the Design Institute at the University of Minnesota; and Shelly Willis, Coordinator of Public Art on Campus at the University of Minnesota. Moderated by Jack Becker of FORECAST Public Artworks.

**November 27**

Museum closed—Thanksgiving

Free Thursdays are made possible by generous support from The Wallace Foundation.

Walker Teen Programs are made possible by generous support from the Surdna Foundation and Best Buy Children's Foundation.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,  
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.  
For public information, call 612.375.7622.  
<http://www.walkerart.org>**

(more)