

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY



James Nares

1976: Movies, Photographs and Related Works on Paper

January 5th – February 11, 2012

515 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001

Private view January 5th, 2012, 6-8pm

“Lower Manhattan in 1976 was a beautiful ruin. The crumbling wasteland proved fertile ground for artists though, nurturing the talent of a generation inspired by its vast emptiness.” James Nares

Paul Kasmin Gallery is pleased to present *1976: Movies, Photographs and Related Works on Paper*, a new exhibition by James Nares. Before he was painting large, single movement brush strokes, Nares’s kinetic investigations took other forms and directions. His preoccupation with movement and bodies in motion was well provided for in what amounted to an enormous, open air, common studio. The post-industrial landscape became the backdrop, subject and the medium during his prolific early career.

The exhibition will feature five films including his 1976 *Pendulum*, which clocks a large spherical mass as it swings on a wire, strung up high from the footbridge, since dismantled, crossing Staple Street in downtown Manhattan. The exhibition will also feature a series of black and white chronophotographs that reveal the temporal structure of a pendulum’s swing, invisible to the naked eye, along with drawings, diagrams, objects, photos and other related material.

Of Nares’s films, Amy Taubin writes, “*Pendulum*, like several other of Nares’s mid-’70s movies—*Hand Notes #2* (1975) and *Ramp, Steel Rod*, and *Poles* (all 1976)—was influenced by the films Richard Serra made in the late ’60s, primarily *Hand Catching Lead* (1968). Both films depict a single, repeated action involving the effect of gravity on a heavy metal object. But the comparison stops there. *Pendulum* has a haunted lyricism, which has nothing to do with Serra’s interests. The film evokes an anxiety dream: The entropic movement of the groaning pendulum, the claustrophobic effect of the industrial buildings lining the site on three sides, the slivers of sunlight penetrating the dust-laden air, even the occasionally glimpsed shadow of the filmmaker, suggest that something terrible has taken or is about to take place on this desolate street.”

293 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001
TEL 212 563 4474 FAX 212 563 4494
www.paulkasmingallery.com

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

For further information, please contact Clara Ha: claraha@paulkasmingallery.com
For press image requests, please contact Mark Markin: mark@paulkasmingallery.com

293 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001
TEL 212 563 4474 FAX 212 563 4494
www.paulkasmingallery.com