

Shorts

Conundrum Clinique
Works by Toronto Artists
guest program by Jon Davies

1976–2015, VARIOUS FORMATS, 75 MIN



Named in homage to a 1981 video by artist Colin Campbell (playing a vain, cosmetics- and media-obsessed NASA scientist), *Conundrum Clinique* critically considers the city of Toronto as a mecca of consumption and self-creation. Whether drawn in by the carnal gratification offered by the seedy adult entertainment parlours along Yonge Street in the 1970s or the 21st century glass condominiums towering up to the heavens, the city has lured the alienated with promises of titillation, luxury, and the chance to buy some happiness and fulfillment.

The program journeys from the piles of soon-to-be-obsolescent products displayed for our delectation at Honest Ed's to the commodification of identity within Canada's famed "multicultural mosaic." From the weight of a memory foam mattress bought on Amazon to a dazzling cascade

of ecstasy pills, *Conundrum Clinique* pictures a Toronto of lifestyle branding, social networking, and self-actualization. The result is a disaffected city symphony of loft living and lost souls, cheap thrills and urban ennui.

—Jon Davies

"Treacherous fop, don't be embarrassed
 For looking good at your table on the terrace
 That you call home. I'm sold!
 Paris, London, Rome's too old for you
 And your kind.
 Explosions want to see what they can find:
 New ways of living..."

—Destroyer, "New Ways of Living"

Robin Collyer, CLOSED, 2015



Castles on the Ground

Ananya Ohri

CANADA, 2015, DIGITAL VIDEO, 1 MIN

Buildings rise from the rubble, defying gravity to re-imagine their fate and the possibility of affordable housing for all.

Minimum Charge No Cover

Janis Cole and Holly Dale

CANADA, 1976, 16MM, 11 MIN

Janis Cole and Holly Dale's early short film lovingly captures their friends and acquaintances who worked the Yonge Street strip. The filmmakers fashion a vivacious portrait of the strip's adult entertainment spots and its queer denizens, who offer their candid thoughts on sex and gender, and identity and freedom.

The Formula / I'm Okay You're Okay / In the Mood **Susan Britton**

CANADA, 1976, ½" OPEN REEL VIDEO ON DIGITAL VIDEO, 7 MIN

Ironically taking on the tropes of advertising and self-empowerment, Susan Britton speaks to us on leisure, power, and desire as if in a hazy televisual trance.

CLOSED

Robin Collyer

CANADA, 2015, DIGITAL VIDEO, 15 MIN

Over many visits during the quiet hours before the store opened to the public, Robin Collyer took thousands of digital photographs inside iconic Toronto retailer Honest Ed's. Contemplating the piles of merchandise on display, Collyer's stop-motion video captures the sprawling store's inner life.

Jackman Hall

317 Dundas St W

McCaul St entrance

\$12 general admission

\$6 students, seniors, underemployed



Memory Foam

Bridget Moser

CANADA, 2015, DIGITAL VIDEO, 13 MIN

A series of monologues, conversations, and scenarios that play out alongside a cast of lifestyle objects purchased on amazon.com, including memory foam body pillows, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) lamps, an ergonomic yoga ball office chair, and a stock photo vinyl wall mural of a dentist at work.

Equality

Jennifer Chan

CANADA, 2015, DIGITAL VIDEO, 15 MIN

A documentary-style video essay featuring animals, natural disasters, epic landscapes, and self-affirmative statements by model minorities. Voiceover from *Everything Good Goes* (2008) by Liam Gillick.

Parade

Oliver Husain

CANADA, 2013, DIGITAL VIDEO, 11 MIN

"*Parade* deploys condominium sales fly-throughs (CGI promotional videos designed to seduce potential buyers by illustrating dreamy and uncluttered domestic and social scenarios), projecting and re-shooting the images on fluttering fabric to suggest pristine lives in elegant and austere boxes in the sky." —Kathleen Smith, 2013

Ecstasy // Normal

Tobias Williams

CANADA, 2015, DIGITAL VIDEO, 2 MIN

A short video based on extensive online research into different corporate imagery used to brand illegal MDMA pills.