

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
515 WEST 26TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10001
212 397 0742
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

RLWindow
Peter Sís: *Animations*
January 5-25, 2016

RYAN LEE presents a series of animated short films by Peter Sís from the 1970s and 1980s, including *Players*, *Heads*, and *Island for 6,000 Alarm Clocks, A Modern Fairy Tale*. Sís began making animated films in 1975, drawing each image and frame entirely by hand. The animations in RLWindow coincide with Peter Sís' third solo exhibition at Mary Ryan Gallery on view January 7-February 20, 2016.

In *Players*, for which he won the Grand Prix Toronto in 1982 at the Toronto Film Festival, Sís takes on notions of war and human aggression through the allegory of sport rivals in popular culture. The protagonists, 1980s tennis stars Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe, battle each other throughout a series of transformations of themselves into iconic fighters and their equipment into weapons. The musical score is by Jiri Stivin, a prestigious Czech composer. The 1977 film *Island for 6,000 Alarm Clocks, A Modern Fairy Tale*, was banned in Czechoslovakia. *Heads* (1980) won the Golden Bear Award at that year's West Berlin Film Festival. His animated short films, some of which are included in the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection, have also been screened previously at Facest Cinematheque in Chicago, the Los Angeles Film Festival, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Nuart Theatre in Los Angeles, and Zlin Film Festival.

Peter Sís is an internationally acclaimed artist, illustrator, author, and filmmaker. His most recent projects include a series of commissioned tapestries made in Aubusson, France for Amnesty International which are on view at Cape Town International Airport dedicated to Nelson Mandela, Prague's Václav Havel Airport honoring Havel, Ellis Island's Immigration Hall in honor of John Lennon, and Dublin Airport for Seamus Heaney. He was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia in 1949, and attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London. He began his career as a filmmaker, and won the Golden Bear Award at the 1980 West Berlin Film Festival for an animated short. He has also won the Grand Prix Toronto and the Cine Golden Eagle Award. In 1982, he was sent by the Czech government to Los Angeles to produce a film for the 1984 Winter Olympics, but when the project was cancelled and the government ordered him to return home, he decided to stay in the United States, where he was granted asylum.

He went on to become a leading artist in the children's book illustration field, as an eight-time winner of the New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year, two-time winner of the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Books, and winner of the Society of Illustrators Gold Medal and Silver Medal. In 2003, Sís won the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, and he won the 2012 Hans Christian Anderson Award, considered the most prestigious in international children's literature. His work has been exhibited in Prague, London, Zurich, Hamburg, Los Angeles, and New York in both group and solo shows.

RLWindow is a dedicated exhibition space featuring video, installation, and performance art designed to engage High Line visitors, viewable from the elevated park at 26th Street. Capitalizing on the gallery's position overlooking the High Line and its visibility to almost 5 million yearly visitors, RLWindow shows innovative, experimental, and collaborative projects by international, contemporary artists, including invited and gallery-represented artists.

Participating artists include Jakob Boeskov, Rudy Burckhardt, Kevin Cooley, Zachary Fabri, Mariam Ghani, Gabriel Lester, Rashaad Newsome, **Luisa Rabbia**, **Sandy Skoglund**, **Stephanie Syjuco**, and more. For press inquiries, contact Courtney Willis Blair at 212-397-0742 or courtney@ryanleegallery.com.

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