

Press Release

MAK NITE[©] 07/11

Program for July 2011

Tuesday, 12 July 2011

8 p.m.

MAK Summernite

Happy Birthday, John Lautner!

Open-Air Cinema

The MAK will be dedicating a cinematic “Summernite” event to the visionary Californian architect John Lautner (16 July 1911–24 October 1994) to mark what would have been his 100th birthday. Three open-air film screenings in the MAK Garden will provide insights into Lautner’s pioneering architecture, which united the greatest possible degree of functionality with modern, original design. His innovative structures number among the most spectacular along the US West Coast and have served time and time again as backdrops for Hollywood movie productions: they include the Elrod House (1968), built into a rocky hillside and featured in the James Bond classic *Diamonds are Forever* (1971), and the UFO-like Malin Residence (1960) in Brian De Palma’s *Body Double* (1984).

The short film *The Desert Hot Springs Motel* (2007, 10' 34") will begin the evening’s presentation. In this film, sensitive camera work by Austrian artist Sasha Pirker explores the architecture of this motel constructed by Lautner in 1947, 150 kilometers east of Los Angeles in Desert Hot Springs. In 2000, author Steve Lowe purchased the building, renovated it and reopened it to guests for the first time in decades. The film gradually reveals more and more architectural details of the Desert Hot Springs Motel while a voice-over tells of Lowe’s life.

The documentary *Infinite Space – The Architecture of John Lautner* (2009, 90') by Scottish author and filmmaker Murray Grigor traces John Lautner’s lifelong quest for “architecture that has no beginning and no end.” Grigor explores the architect’s most spectacular buildings, also including interviews with prominent colleagues: among them are Frank O. Gehry (like Lautner a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright), Frank Escher (who restored the UFO-shaped Malin Residence (1960), also known as the “Chemosphere”), actor Sean Connery and, last but not least, architecture photographer Julius Shulman (1910–2009), who created portraits of Lautner’s buildings as well as of numerous works by other great modernists.

The classic film *James Bond. Diamonds Are Forever* (1971, 120'), which made the Elrod House (built in 1968 on a spectacular sloping lot in Palm Springs for designer Arthur Elrod) famous the world over, will serve as the cinematic climax of this MAK Summernite. The building is dominated by a giant roof-canopy (the “Sunburst”) made of concrete, which seems to float above the living area. Rock

outcroppings become part of the interior design, and sliding doors made of glass and aluminum allow the living quarters to be opened almost completely to the surrounding desert.

MAK Sommernite will be the final MAK NITE[®] event before this year's summer break. The next MAK NITE[®] will take place on Tuesday, 20 September, starting at 9:00 p.m. with a performance by the Romanian artists' collective APPARATUS 22.

Later on this month, the MAK Center Los Angeles will be offering an architecture tour on John Lautner in cooperation with the John Lautner Foundation. This "John Lautner 100th Birthday Tour" (Saturday, 23 July 2011) will take participants to the Harpel House (1956), the Jacobsen House (1947), the Schwimmer House (1982) and the Sheats/Goldstein Residence (1963). More information is available at MAKcenter.org.

Venue **MAK Garden**, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Admission € 9.90 with MAK guide / € 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50

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