

BECKETT FILMS

Date: 17 December 2010 – 22 March 2011

The forcefulness and the enormous influence of the writing of Samuel Beckett, his interest in language as a way out in the face of a human solitude for which there is no cure, have ended up unjustly relegating the more visual aspects of his writing to the background.

Since the 1960s and almost until his death in 1989, Beckett expressed his gradual mistrust of the word (spoken or written) as a means of genuine communication in his growing interest in the audiovisual media. In 1964 with Alan Schneider he made the medium-length movie *Film*, with Buster Keaton as the chief protagonist. In this way a *parallel* trajectory was begun that reached the highest levels of visual expressiveness in his works for television in the 70s and 80s, in his pieces for radio, broadcast by the BBC from the 50s on, and in the film versions of theater productions like *Not I* and *What Where*.

The screening in single-channel video of these works will form the centerpiece of a project that transcends the traditional format of the video screenings and leads to an overall vision of the organic unity of this facet of the Beckettian oeuvre.

The show highlights the complex network of recurring images, musical motifs and *ritornelles* (as Gilles Deleuze puts it in *The Exhausted*, his seminal essay on these works) that are latent in Beckett's audiovisual output as a whole.

The symbolically charged historic context of the CAAC galleries will help the spectator appreciate the effort involved in Samuel Beckett's ongoing research and renewed creativity when approaching this medium. It will confirm the decisive influence of his work on the careers of many contemporary visual artists and provide a framework of new readings and nuances for the entirety of his oeuvre.