

# Victoria Miro Gallery

## Press Release

### ISAAC JULIEN

*Three*

10 September to 30 September 1999  
Private view Friday 10 September 6-8pm

Victoria Miro Gallery is pleased to present **Isaac Julien's** first solo show in London, a video installation entitled *Three*. Known mainly for his work in cinema, *Three* is the most recent of his works to be made specifically for a gallery context, combining a full screening of the film with three looped sequences back-projected side by side and presented almost as a moving photographic triptych.

Produced in collaboration with and featuring acclaimed choreographers **Bebe Miller** and **Ralph Lemon** along with British actress **Cleo Sylvestre**, *Three* explores aspects of desire through dance movements and symbolically weighted images. These are juxtaposed with their social, cultural or religious sources thereby reifying a narrative which draws on and comments on interdisciplinary codes. Indeed, one of the objectives of Julien's oeuvre is to break down the barriers which exist between different artistic disciplines by uniting them in an exponential dialogue. As such the collaborative nature of this work is one of its most important elements, drawing from and commenting on film, dance, photography, music, theatre, painting and sculpture and uniting these in a poetic landscape to construct a powerfully visual narrative.

**Isaac Julien** came to prominence in the film world with his 1989 drama-documentary *Looking for Langston* - a poetic exploration of **Langston Hughes** and the *Harlem Renaissance* which gained him a cult following. This following was expanded in 1991 when his film *Young Soul Rebels* won the *Semaine de la Critique* prize for best film at the **Cannes Film Festival**. While he has continued to receive commissions from **Channel 4** and **BBC2**, Julien has more recently also been invited to make new work by museums which has then been shown at venues such as the **ICA London**, the **Museum of Modern Art, Oxford**, the **Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki**, the **Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin**, the **Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva**, the **Johannesburg Biennale** etc. He will take up his residency as a fellow at **Art Pace San Antonio** in October this year. *Three* will also be shown at the **Paula Cooper Gallery** in New York later this season. **Julien** is also a cultural theorist and writer and is a guest professor at **Harvard** in the United States and **Oxford Brookes University** in England.

With special thanks to: **London Production Fund**, **The Andy Warhol Foundation**, **Wexner Center for the Arts**, Columbus, Ohio and **(trans)position**, London.

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