

# Richard Newton

## BIO

I was born in Oakland, California, 1948, and hold a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California at Irvine. In 1972, I began working with cans, glass bottles, bread, produce and other cast-offs. Partly from a need to survive and partly from a sense of fascination for the abundance of America, my practice of dumpster diving and recycling became a means to create environmental works of art. **Beggar's Banquet**, 1972, created from one night's bounty of discarded fruits and vegetables installed as 2 lavish pyramids was included in the Getty's "Pacific Standard Time: Los Angeles Art, 1945 - 1980."

In the summer of 2012, I travelled to Tromsø, Norway to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Ibsen Conference. The conference normally reserved for scholars, invited 4 artists. One each, from Asia, Africa, Europe and myself from USA. I spoke about my production, **The Former Miss Barstow with every Tom, Dick, and Harry in a doll's house**, 1987, and discussed the process of adapting Ibsen to a specific cultural and societal situation.

I have shown artworks, artists' books, films & videos and presented live performances and site-specific installations throughout the world. My one-of-a-kind books were shown at DOCUMENTA VI in Kassel, Germany. For the PUBLIC SPIRIT FESTIVAL, 1980, the audience found me performing behind a chained door in a downtown derelict hotel. Titled, **Get Under The Table, Don't Look at the Windows**, this performance dealt with alcoholism, family relationships, the nature of infinity and the threat of nuclear destruction. In another performance, the audience found **The Man Who Could Eat Glass** locked in his hotel room, ruminating on what it means to be American and to be held hostage. The meaning of "hostage" was expanded to include being held by a foreign government, being held with criminal intent, being held by the mental illness of one's own mind, and being held under the addiction to alcohol.

In 1982, Paul McCarthy and I exhibited together at Exile Gallery on the edge of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. For my part, I built a sanctuary, **The Grotto**. The walls, ceiling, and floors were made entirely of recycled beer cans. Beer seeped down the walls and dripped from the ceiling into a well built to hold the holy beer. The Grotto was open to all and welcomed all to refresh themselves. The materials used to construct The Grotto were eventually recycled.

**La Gruta Azul** (the blue grotto) installed at Jancar Gallery in 2013, was constructed as a sanctuary for all to take a moment to remember those who have passed from alcohol and drug related deaths. Christopher Knight of the Los Angeles Times wrote "Castoffs come in many forms, whether material or spiritual. 'La Gruta Azul' retrieves them in a quiet poignant embrace."

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## EDUCATION

M.F.A., major in Art, U.C. Irvine, 1973

B.A., major in Philosophy, U.C. Irvine, 1970

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

The Grotto, USAProjects, 2012 - 2013

13<sup>th</sup> International Ibsen Conference, 2012, University of Tromsø, Norway

ARC grant, Center for Cultural Innovation, 2011

18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center 2011 Artist Fellowship

LAICA 1979 CETA grant

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## AWARDS

### **In Vivo**

2006

Mediterranean Environmental Award, Turkey

2005

Best Editing, 7<sup>th</sup> Chicks with Flicks Film Fest, New York City

2004

Second Prize, Williamsburg's Second International Surrealist Film Festival

### **Flying with the Angels**

1998

Most Innovative Use of the Medium, Canyonlands Film Festival, Utah

Best Avant-Garde, Canyonlands Film Festival, Utah

Audience Award, Saguaro Film Festival, Arizona

Best Experimental, Williamsburg Film Festival, New York

Best Experimental, Hardacre Film Festival, Iowa

Best Experimental, Philadelphia Film Festival

1997

Nosch Award, Surrealist Film Festival, Connecticut

### **SWIFT NUDES**

1991

First Prize, Certamen Internacional de Cine Ciutat D'Igualada, Barcelona, Spain

### **small white house**

1991

Third Prize, ARCO '91, I Exhibition of Experimental Cinema, Madrid, Spain

1990

Best First Film and runner-up as best film in festival,

19th Festival Internacional de Cinema, Figueira da Foz, Portugal

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## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, INSTALLATIONS, SCREENINGS & PERFORMANCES (PAST 8 YEARS)

2015

*A Performative Trigger: Radicals of Irvine*, University Art Gallery, UC Irvine, CA

### **So say good night to the bad guy!**

Selecto Planta Baja, Los Angeles

*Young Turks*, a documentary by Stephen Seemayer and Pamela Wilson  
*featured as myself, an artist living in downtown L.A. in the 1970s*  
Café Gratitude's Community Movie Night, One Santa Fe, Arts District, Los Angeles

### **The last time you gonna see a bad guy like this again, let me tell you,**

Selecto Planta Baja, Los Angeles

*TOTALLY EAST SIDE LA CHOLOS. Don't break my heart - The House Show*  
Boyle Heights, California

*DIRT*, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

*The Art Crowd*, presented by Phyllis Lutjeans, Irvine, CA

2014

**Flying with the Angels**, 10 short films by Richard Newton, solo exhibition  
Los Angeles Filmforum at the Egyptian, Hollywood, CA

*Video Lounge*, aqua14 art miami at the Aqua Hotel, Miami, FL

**Short Films** at Coastline Community College, Newport Beach, CA

*Life in the Fast Lane: Doing Performance Art in the Big 80's*  
Highways' 25th Anniversary, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA

*A Recipe for Disaster, Generation 1: Los Angeles Alternative Art in the 1970's*  
Highways' 25th Anniversary, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA

*Art Auction 2014*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California

*photo l.a.*, Jancar Gallery, L.A. Mart, Los Angeles

*18is25*, Celebration and Fundraiser for 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica, CA

## Richard Newton

2013

**La Gruta Azul** (*The Blue Grotto*), solo exhibition, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

*East of Encino, North of MOCA*, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

*vierundzwanzig zwanzigdreizehn*, online ADVENT calendar, Berlin

**Some Poets**: short films from 1969-1987 by Richard Newton, solo exhibition  
Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California

*Rick Castro Fetish*, Antebellum Gallery, Hollywood, California

*Young Turks*, a documentary by Stephen Seemayer and Pamela Wilson  
*featured as myself*

The Downtown Independent, 3 week run, Los Angeles

United Film Festival, Los Angeles

Downtown Film Festival, Los Angeles

Cable Television, distributed nationwide

*photo l.a.*, Jancar Gallery, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium

*Art Los Angeles Contemporary*, Jancar Gallery, The Barker Hangar, Santa Monica

*ArtPadSF*, Jancar Projects, Phoenix Hotel, San Francisco

2012

**Ric Marin as the pit boss...**,

*La Señorita of the River of Our Lady Queen of Porciúncula*

Coagula Curatorial, Los Angeles

**Get out from under the table, look out the window,**

collaboration with Scarlett Rouge,

The Royal Pagoda Motel, Chinatown, Los Angeles

*Young Turks*, a documentary by Stephen Seemayer and Pamela Wilson  
*featured as myself*

The Downtown Independent, Los Angeles

**Thomas, a man, & Fall from Palisades**, *The Alternative Projections Marathon*,

Experimental Film in Los Angeles, 1945-1980, Echo Park Film Center,

Los Angeles Filmforum, Pacific Standard Time

**Oddities from the Reliquary at Ghetty,**

LA Air Screening: Friends and Neighbors, Echo Park Film Center, Los Angeles

## Richard Newton

2012 cont'd

**A Glancing Blow**, *Tricky Poses and Taxing Conditions: Performance and Media*,  
Los Angeles Filmforum Alternative Projections:  
Experimental Film in Los Angeles 1945-1980

**Now Show Yours**, *Sex Roles: Gender, Liberation and Sexuality*,  
Los Angeles Filmforum Alternative Projections:  
Experimental Film in Los Angeles 1945-1980

**The Annotated Artist Landlord**, presented by the BLACK BOX  
for Pacific Standard Time Performance Art Festival

*Musician* in Robert Wilhite's *Chinese Cocktail*, Barnsdall Gallery Theatre,  
presented by X-TRA for Pacific Standard Time Performance Art Festival

**I'm going out in the RAIN**, and GoGo's footage,  
Strange Notes and Nervous Breakdowns: Punk and Media Art, 1974-1981,  
Los Angeles Filmforum for "Under the Big Black Sun" at MOCA

*Art Los Angeles Contemporary*, Jancar Gallery, The Barker Hangar, Santa Monica  
*photo l.a.*, Jancar Gallery, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium

2011

*Best Kept Secret Film Screening: Richard Newton*,  
University of California, Irvine

*LOST AND FOUND*, Robert Berman Gallery, Santa Monica, California

**Oddities from the Reliquary at Ghetty**,  
various locations on the streets of Los Angeles

[Best Kept Secret](#), Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California  
**PARFUM**, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California

[Gang of Carp](#), Future Studio, Los Angeles

[Recollecting Performance](#), Los Angeles Goes Live, LACE  
*Performance video project*, Los Angeles Goes Live, LACE

[seventies](#), solo exhibition, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles  
**Smell a Vagina**, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles  
**PARFUM**, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

[Have You Seen My Privacy?](#), 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center, California

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2011 cont'd

[\*Narratives of the Perverse II\*](#), Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

*Benefit Auction*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

**My father wasn't the man I thought he was.**

*X-TRA's 1 Image 1 Minute*, Creative Artists Agency, Los Angeles

2010

*(re-): un-historical documents*,

The Guggenheim Gallery at Chapman University, Orange, California

**Seek no evil, Fear no evil, Be no evil**, Studio MNX, San Pedro, California

*99 at the Airport*, Ontario, California

*Son of Cardboard Fetish*, South Pasadena, California

*Int'l Mail Art Show*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, California

*(In Honor and Memory of Judith A. Hoffberg)*

*Chicken Boy*, 66th Annual NELA Holiday Parade, Highland Park, California

**Introducing the Tarot Marin**, Studio MNX, San Pedro, California

**Barbie Killed Everything**, Studio MNX, San Pedro, California

2009

**Seek no evil, Fear no evil, Be no evil**, Pasadena, California

*Pan-Demonium*, AC Institute (Direct Chapel), New York City

**Dante's View**, *Santorini Super 8 Film Festival*, Greece

*Cardboard Fetish*, Pasadena Public Library, California

**A Glancing Blow**, *Open Projector*, Hammer Museum. Los Angeles

2008

**Friends of The Book of Nails**, one-of-a-kind books

Future Studio, Los Angeles, California

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## REVIEWS, NOTICES, PUBLICATIONS AND CATALOGS

2015

[“Will the Broad Museum come with strings attached?”](#)

Catherine Wagley, L.A. Weekly, September 16, 2015

“Free Radicals: Early Artists’ Performance at UCI”

Peter Frank, Los Angeles, September, 2015

“Alternative Projections, Experimental Film in Los Angeles, 1945 - 1980,” David E. James and Adam Hyman, Indiana University Press

“Richard Newton, vol. 2: small white house,” Richard Newton, Los Angeles

<http://septentrio.uit.no/index.php/nordlit/article/viewFile/3352/3224>

“The Former Miss Barstow with every Tom, Dick and Harry in a doll’s house”

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Inaugural Artists Keynote Panel, Ibsen and World Drama(s)

The XIII<sup>th</sup> International Ibsen Conference, University of Tromsø, Norway, June 2012

“Illuminating Alum”

Richard Chang, UCI@50, UCI Alumni Association, University of California, Irvine

2014

[“5 Artsy Things to Do in L.A. This Week, Including an Alligator Track Star”](#)

Catherine Wagley, L.A. Weekly, online January 1st,

in print January 3, 2014, vol. 36, no. 7

[“Your Can’t-Miss Film Events For The Week”](#)

laist.com, March 20, 2014

“A Recipe for Disaster, Generation 1: Los Angeles Alternative Art in the 1970’s”  
Highways’ 25th Anniversary, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA

“Michèle,” Joanna Schlenzka, Ponystep, February 14, 2014

2013

[“Richard Newton’s ‘La Gruta Azul’ at Jancar Gallery is poignant”](#)

Christopher Knight, Los Angeles Times, online October 10th, in print October 11, 2013

[“Richard Newton: The dark side of the American Dream”](#)

Carolina Gestri, Reykjavik Boulevard, February 21, 2013

[“The wandering camera”](#)

Rhea Mahbubani, Laguna Beach Coastline Pilot, May 10, 2013



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[Richard Newton, "La Gruta Azul / The Grotto"](#)

Lisa Derrick, Cartwheel, September 13, 2013

["A Glancing Blow with Richard Newton"](#)

Marilyn Nix, Cartwheel, January 23, 2013

["La Gruta Azul at Jancar Gallery"](#)

Brittany Lala, FAPT 305 blog, October 15, 2013

["Newton the nomad"](#)

Young Turks the movie blog, May 10, 2013

["Richard Newton speaks out"](#)

Young Turks the movie blog, February 22, 2013

["Chasing The Young Turks"](#)

Richard Guzman, Los Angeles Downtown News, February 4, 2013

["Young Turks"](#)

John Rabe, Off-Ramp, 89.3 KPCC, January 29, 2013

["Young Turks"](#)

Artist in Focus, Fionn Zarubica & Associates, February 4, 2013

["Review: 'Young Turks' brings L.A. art period out of the archives"](#)

Robert Abele, Los Angeles Times, February 7, 2013

["Richard Newton Has More of His Short Films Rolling in Laguna Art Museum Tonight"](#)

Matt Coker, OCWeekly Blog, May 16, 2013

["Checking out the art scene in Chinatown"](#)

Issac Brynjegard-Bialik blog, September 25, 2013

"La Gruta Azul," exhibition catalog, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles

"Richard Newton, vol. 1: CANS," Richard Newton, Los Angeles

Roll Call, artillery, November/December, 2013, Volume 8, Issue 2

"Movie Buff: Young Turks," Pamela Wilson,  
Gallery Row Art Walk News, February 12, 2013

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“small white house,” Jade Vine, jade-vine.tumblr.com, September 23, 2013  
<http://jade-vine.tumblr.com/post/62045163056/small-white-house-1990-richard-newton-usa>

2012

“Best Kept Secret,” Liz Goldner, artillery, Vol 6 Issue 3, Feb/March 2012

[“Punk rock and media art collide in MOCA program”](#)

Jamie Wetherbe, Los Angeles Times, Jan. 12, 2012

[“Punk Videos and DIY Video Art at Alternative Projections.”](#)

Karina Longworth, LA Weekly, June 12, 2012

[“Laguna Art Museum’s Best Kept Secret Shows What Zot Wrought.”](#)

Dave Barton, OC Weekly, Jan 12, 2012

[“Richard Newton”](#)

Artist in Focus, Fionn Zarubica & Associates, June 7, 2012

[“Get out from under the table. look out the window”](#)

Previews, Artweek.LA, May 14, 2012

[“Undress Codes”](#)

Speaking from the Diaphragm, The Vaginal Davis Blog, July 8, 2012

[“Five Artsy Things to Do This Week, including the End of Pacific Standard Time”](#)

Catherine Wagley, L.A. Weekly, March 28, 2012

“Live Art in LA, Performance in Southern California, 1970-1983,”

Peggy Phelan, Routledge

“Public Fiction 3, The Club Issue,” Lauren Mackler, 2012

“Pacific Standard Time: Los Angeles Art, 1945 – 1980”, German edition

Rebecca Peabody, Andrew Perchuk, Glenn Phillips, and Rani Singh  
Gestalten Verlag, 2012

“The Former Miss Barstow with every Tom, Dick and Harry in a doll’s house,”

Ibsen.net, <http://www.ibsen.net/index.gan?id=11219854>, 2012

“Moveon.now: Tomorrow’s Transportation Today,” Fontbron Academy at Armory  
Center for the Arts, October 16, 2012. Number 117, *A Glancing Blow* featured.

[“Nancy Buchanan: Ethical Provocations \(photo essay\)”](#)

Audrey Chan, Afterall, October 1, 2012

“Top 20s,” Pinhead, <http://forum.scenedeux.com/viewtopic.php?f=55&t=514>,  
January 22, 2012

Media Arts Preview: Kino Eye and Soft Fiction

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Holly Willis, KCET online, February 9, 2012

2011

[“The Present Afterlives of Richard Newton”](#) Jared Baxter,  
ARTslanT Gallery Hop, October 6, 2011

[“Check Out: Lost and Found / Abstracting Los Angeles 1945 – 1980 at the Robert Berman Gallery,”](#) Dina, L.A. Canvas, November 30, 2011

[“Laguna Art Museum Revives UC Irvine’s Forgotten Avant-Garde Renaissance,”](#)  
Ryan Wirick, Laguna Beach Patch, November 27, 2011

[“Richard Newton @ Robert Berman Gallery,”](#)  
Weekend Bender, Coagula Art Journal, Nov. 23, 2011

[“Learning to break the rules,”](#) David Hansen,  
Laguna Beach Coastline Pilot, November 3, 2011

[“Learning from Irvine,”](#) Catherine Liu, UC State of The Arts/SOTA, Nov. 2, 2011

[“Laguna Art Museum reveals ‘Best Kept Secret,’](#) Richard Chang,  
The Orange County Register, October 28, 2011

[“Artists are seen as one step above criminals,”](#)  
Interview with Paul McCarthy, The Art Newspaper, October 27, 2011

[“Richard Newton at Jancar Gallery”](#)  
Peter Frank, huffingtonpost.com, Sept. 23, 2011

[“Richard Newton @ Jancar Gallery,”](#)  
Weekend Bender, Coagula Art Journal, Sept. 21, 2011

[“Interior crowd at Richard Newton’s show at Jancar Gallery,”](#)  
Weekend Bender, Coagula Art Journal, September 20, 2011

[“‘Chain Letter’ at Shoshana Wayne Gallery: Artmageddon,”](#)  
Carol Cheh, LA Weekly blogs, July 25, 2011

[“Have You Seen My Privacy?”](#) Peter Frank, huffingtonpost.com, April 8, 2011

[“Best Kept Secret,”](#) Grace Kook-Anderson, Peter Frank, Marilyn Nix,  
and Bolton Colburn, Laguna Art Museum, 2011

[“Pacific Standard Time: Los Angeles Art, 1945 – 1980”](#)  
Rebecca Peabody, Andrew Perchuk, Glenn Phillips, and Rani Singh  
The Getty Research Institute and the J. Paul Getty Museum, 2011

[“L.A. Rising: SoCal Artists Before 1980,”](#) Lyn Kienholz  
The California/International Arts Foundation, 2011

## Richard Newton

“2011 Program Annual, 18th Street Arts Center,” Nicole Gordillo

“Clayton Campbell Tribute,” 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center, 2011, placed an advertisement

[“Richard Newton Speaking About His Work,”](#)

Best Kept Secret documentary, Laguna Art Museum, 2011

“Chain Letter,” Jeffrey Crussell, Lulu.com, 2011, contributing photographer

“Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze,” Tanya Augsburg and Karen Gutfreund, 2011  
performer in *Please Sing Along*, Nancy Buchanan, 1974

[“Richard Newton Film Shorts.”](#) Stacy Davies, O.C. Weekly, December 8, 2011

[“Best Kept Secret.”](#) Pinterest, 2011

“New Arrivals for September,” <http://www.b-videos101.com/new.htm>, 2011