



# who is jordan wolfson?

SUMMITRIDGE PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH RSJC LLC PRESENT "SPIT EARTH: WHO IS JORDAN WOLFSON?"

STARRING JORDAN WOLFSON JEFFREY DEITCH JEREMY O. HARRIS ERICA JONG JEFF KOONS

PRODUCED BY RONNIE SASSOON EDITED BY NICK TAMBURRI JAMES CRUMP RONNIE SASSOON

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JAMES CRUMP PRODUCTION DESIGN BY RONNIE SASSOON WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JAMES CRUMP

# spit earth

## WHO IS JORDAN WOLFSON?

**A FILM BY JAMES CRUMP. PRODUCED BY RONNIE SASSOON**

Running time: 60 minutes.

Jordan Wolfson is both a product and a symptom of the contemporary art world, and recently considered *the* artist of the decade by the editors of *Frieze Magazine*. In 2014, the Los Angeles-based Wolfson was catapulted to notorious acclaim with his game-changing, hypersexualized *Female Figure*, a life-sized animatronic sculpture featuring facial recognition technology and Hollywood special effects that raised the specter of misogyny while challenging the way images of women are viewed by popular culture. While *Female Figure* broached post human scenarios, Wolfson's sculpture also tested our assumptions about gender and sexuality anticipating the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

*Spit Earth: Who Is Jordan Wolfson?* is a feature documentary film about this controversial and divisive artist who in the ensuing five years has only solidified his stature with unnerving and provocative new works that elicit extreme reactions from both critical naysayers and vocal proponents alike. Wolfson is not content to play by the rules of a conservative self-policing art market that favors the status quo, instead preferring to make us squirm as he engages a host of lightning-rod issues facing our society today; homophobia, misogyny, racism, white nationalism, antisemitism and violence to name but a few. Wolfson is an art maker on the world stage whose immersive works take on today's endemic virtue signaling and politically correct narratives, veritably throwing it all back into our faces.

The film explores Wolfson's most notable recent works while taking viewers on a behind-the-scenes journey to both coasts as the artist prepares his most ambitious animatronic sculpture to date. It is an intimate view of a brilliant artist whose fractured sense of self results in a constant struggle with identity, sexuality, fear and anxiety. The film features playwright Jeremy O. Harris (*Slave Play*), artist Jeff Koons and feminist writer and novelist Erica Jong (*Fear of Flying*) among others.

### **About the Producers**

James Crump is an award-winning American film director, writer and producer and acclaimed art historian and curator whose recent films include *Black White + Gray: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival; *Troublemakers: The Story of Land Art* which premiered at the New York Film Festival with *The Wall Street Journal* declaring "takes its place among the great art documentaries of the past half century"; and *Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex Fashion & Disco*, winner of the Metropolis Grand Jury Prize at the 2017 DOC NYC Film Festival. Crump is an alum of the Sundance Institute's Independent Producers Conference.

*Spit Earth: Who is Jordan Wolfson?* is produced by Crump and Ronnie Sassoon, executive producer on Crump's last two films, *Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex Fashion & Disco* and *Troublemakers*. Sassoon is an art historian, designer and collector of art of the 1960s and 1970s, chiefly Zero and Arte Povera. After an early career in fashion design and advertising, she worked closely with her late husband, Vidal Sassoon, in product development, fragrance, advertising, marketing and promo-

tion of the Vidal Sassoon brand worldwide. Today she resides in the second of two Richard Neutra homes for which she personally directed the restoration. Prior to this, she oversaw the restoration of architect Hal Levitt's most important Beverly Hills residence. Sassoon has served on the boards of museums worldwide.

Together, Crump and Sassoon are the principals of the production company, Summitridge Pictures.

## Key Cast

**Jordan Wolfson** is an American artist living and working in Los Angeles. His art is known for addressing social commentary, violence and entertainment, using video and film, sculptural installation and virtual reality.

**Jack Bankowsky** is a critic, curator, and Editor-at-Large at *Artforum*. He served as Editor-in-Chief of *Artforum* from 1992 to 2003, and is the founding editor of *Artforum*'s sister publication, *Bookforum*, where he was editor from 1996 to 1998.

**Andrianna Campbell-LaFleur** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Art History at the CUNY Graduate Center, where she specializes in American art in the modern and contemporary period. Her doctoral research focuses on Norman Lewis and Abstract Expressionism. Alongside her scholarly research, she is the author of essays and reviews on contemporary art for *Artforum*, *Art In America*, and *Frieze*.

**Jeffrey Deitch** is a dealer in modern and contemporary art and an art advisor to private and institutional art collectors. He is also an art writer and exhibition organizer. Prior to opening his own art advisory firm in 1988, Deitch was a Vice President of Citibank where he spent nine years developing and managing the bank's art advisory and art finance businesses. He has contributed to *Arts*, *Art in America*, *Artforum*, and numerous other publications, and served as the first American Editor of *Flash Art*.

**Jeremy O. Harris** is an American actor and playwright, known for his plays *Daddy* and *Slave Play*. He was the winner of the 2018 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, given by the Vineyard Theatre in New York City. *Out* magazine called him "The queer black savior the theater world needs."

**Erica Jong** is an American novelist, satirist, and poet, known particularly for her 1973 novel *Fear of Flying*. The book became famously controversial for its attitudes towards female sexuality and figured prominently in the development of second-wave feminism.

**Stefan Kalmár** is the Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (ICA). Prior to joining ICA in 2016, Kalmár was Director of Artists Space, New York, which he lead beginning in 2009. Kalmár has written extensively about modern and contemporary art and is the author of numerous essays and books.

**Jeff Koons** is an American artist known for working with popular culture subjects and his reproductions of banal objects, such as balloon animals produced in stainless steel with mirror-finish surfaces. He lives and works in both New York City and his hometown of York, Pennsylvania.

**Kenny Schachter** is a New York-based dealer, curator and writer who is a regular contributor to *Artnet News* and other publications dealing with contemporary art. Since the early 1990s, Schachter has organized scores of exhibitions with artists such as Rachel Harrison, Vito Acconci, Richard Woods, Jonathan Horowitz and Zaha Hadid among numerous others.