

## Ann Veronica Janssens

### *Oscar*

***12 September – 4 November 2012***

Tower Room

Ann Veronica Janssens returns to Ikon with her video work *Oscar* (2009), a portrait of the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer at the age of 102.

Filmed in real time while he takes a break, we see him smoking, at once statuesque and nothing if not flesh and blood. In spite of its being absolutely uncontrived, this video could not be more affecting, drawing us into speculation of what this man – a personification of modernism, whose buildings have shaped countless lives – could possibly be thinking. Here he strikes us as being all too human.

Oscar Niemeyer established himself in the 1940s as a major exponent of modernism. His iconic works include public buildings designed for the city of Brasília, including the Cathedral and the National Congress of Brazil, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Ann Veronica Janssens was born in 1958 in Folkestone, England, and now lives and works in Brussels. A sculptor of light, sound and space, her solo exhibition at Ikon in 2002 conveyed the artist's characteristic fascination with natural phenomena and everyday experience, through coloured light projection and installation work.

**Ends.**

#### **Note to Editors:**

1. Press Preview on Wednesday 12 September 11am-6pm followed by private view, 6-8pm. Contact Helen Stallard if you would like to attend.
2. A selection of images is at the bottom of this press release.
3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
4. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.

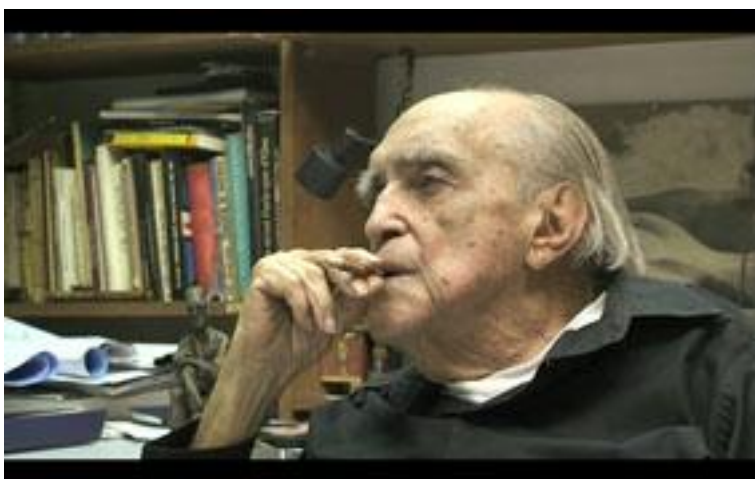
# IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709  
WEBSITE. [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)  
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892

For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with the curator please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email [h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk)



Ann Veronica Janssens  
*Oscar* (2009)  
HDV / DVD looped 12.08  
minutes



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