



VANITY FAIR®

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Spotlight

DOUG AITKEN

THE NARRATOR

A young artist in full bloom, Doug Aitken has redefined pop culture and high art with images that are accessible to all—and sublime to those in the know. Working in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art and Creative Time, Aitken is turning Manhattan inside out next month, making our private moments public. *Sleepwalkers* features seven large-scale projections wrapping the exterior of MoMA, infusing the architectural space with the fractured, nonlinear narrative of our lives, the chaos of urban existence. It is a constantly shuffling kaleidoscope, remixing stories featuring characters played by Tilda Swinton, Chan Marshall (Cat Power), Seu Jorge, Ryan Donowho, and Donald Sutherland. The idea came to Aitken five years ago almost like a hallucination: "I was walking down an avenue alone in the early morning, looking up at the skyscrapers, and wanted to see them animated, in conversation with each other." This cinematic wonderland is a transcendent love letter where memory and narrative come together and then part, with the choreographed movements of dance, the rhythms of music, and the lyricism of poetry.

—A. M. HOMES

Photographed with Chan Marshall (Cat Power) and Tilda Swinton by Todd Eberle on the roof of the Maritime Hotel in New York City.

