

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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THE HISTORY OF NOTHING, a 12-minute collage film made by the contemporary British artist, Eduardo Paolozzi, will be screened at The Museum of Modern Art daily at 2:15 p.m., October 5 through November 10.

Paolozzi points out that "this film has no technical innovations; relying mainly on its content, conveyed through elements of surprise -- unexpected feelings and strange juxtapositions of image and situation. The language of orthodox surrealism is used in some cases, for example, a collage of machines and objects in rooms.

(These collages were done in Hamburg during the period between April 1960 and April 1961.) The varied still material is in itself of considerable interest. Certain items have been selected and reinterpreted into screen prints." Included are plates from a perforated metal catalogue; views of New York, São Paulo and San Remo; a clown and an electronic arm. The accompanying semi-synchronized sound track is drawn from records of church bells, altered jazz, African drums, locomotives, airplanes, etc.

The well-known art critic, Dore Ashton, comments that Paolozzi "builds the texture of the film in the same way he builds his sculptures. Small details are repeated in slightly different forms throughout. Dominant images, such as an old-walled Italian town perched on a cliff and metamorphosed into a parody of modern war mammoth, are presented at regular intervals, fitted into new circumstances until toward the end they register as parts of a cataclysmic event."

The film presented in conjunction with the current Museum of Modern Art exhibition of prints and sculpture by Paolozzi, was made in the winter of 1961 at the Royal College of Art in London. It is a 16mm black and white film with a running time of 12 minutes.

Additional information available from Linda Goldsmith, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 10019, N.Y. Circle 5-8900.