

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

No. 132
Tuesday, December 17, 1968
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CINEPROBE: A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FILM-MAKER AND FILM-VIEWER

New Series Introduced by The Museum of Modern Art

Features Stan VanDerBeek

"Cineprobe," a new film series sponsored by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art, will be presented on the first Tuesday of every month at five-thirty in the Auditorium. The work of an independent American film-maker will be shown and the film-maker will be present to discuss his film with the audience.

The series, according to Willard Van Dyke, head of the Film Department, is designed to provide the Museum audience with an informal encounter with young film-makers. Much of Cineprobe's value will be in the exchange that follows each showing. "It is seldom that an audience has the occasion to receive first hand information from the film-maker," Mr. Van Dyke declared. "Now questions about style or concept can be addressed to the man who made the film and the audience should be better able to understand the motivation and problems encountered by today's film-maker."

The "Cineprobe" scheduled for January 7 will feature Stan VanDerBeek, and will include the first showing of several of his multi-screen films: "Violence Sonata;" computer-generated images called Poem Field Number 1, Number 2, and Number 3; "Will," an experiment in video tape; "Oh," a traditional animated film; and a documentary on the Movie Drome, built by Mr. VanDerBeek in Stony Point, New York, where he has his studio. In the Movie Drome the audience lies on the floor, while images are projected simultaneously all over the surface of the dome-like structure. Mr. VanDerBeek will discuss the uses of the drome as well as his new works and works-in-progress.

(more)

Mr. VanDerBeek says that he is trying to evolve a "literagraphic" image, an international sign language of fantasy and satire in his films. "There is a social literature through filmic pantomime, that is, non-verbal comedy-satire; a 'comic-ominous' image that pertains to our time and interests."

The word Cineprobe is a combination of cinema and probe; it represents the camera's objective ability to probe into the world, and at the same time invites the audience to probe into the film-maker's subjective attitudes.

Films for this series may be submitted from all parts of the country. Some may deal with student unrest, the sexual revolution, political upheaval; others may be confined to a personal interpretation of the social scene, autobiographical expressions or personal and abstract experiments. The world of the film-maker will be scrutinized in a confrontation between the film artist and the film viewer.

Before announcing the new series, the Museum conducted several exploratory Cineprobes; Jim McBride's film, "David Holzman's Diary," which won the Grand Prix at the Mannheim Festival; the experimental works of the Kuchar Brothers, and the films of David Brooks.

Stan VanDerBeek who will lend himself and his works to the January Cineprobe is internationally known for his film experiments. He received a Bronze Medal at the Brussels International Experimental Film Competition for "Mankinda" and "What Who How." The latter received an Award of Merit from the Creative Film Foundation, which also gave VanDerBeek an Award of Distinction for his film, "Science Friction." His computer film, "Man and His World" was shown at Expo '67, and "See, Saw, Seems," was part of the Lincoln Center Film Festival and London Film Festival.

Additional information and stills available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.