

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1988

ANIMATION EVENTS November and December 1988

GERMAN PIONEERS November 11

Animated films were an outgrowth of experimental work by early twentieth century German artists who were searching for a universal language of abstract symbols. Spanning the years 1910 to 1940, this program includes short films by pioneering German animation artists. Among those represented are: Viking Eggeling, painter and cornerstone of the avant-garde animation movement; Hans Richter, painter, architecture student, and theorist; Walter Ruttmann, experimental abstract filmmaker, musician, and painter; and Julius Pinschewer, one of Germany's most important animators and a pioneer of theatrical commercials. The retrospective was organized by Louise Beaudet, curator of animation, Cinémathèque Québécoise, Quebec.

BEST OF ZAGREB '88 November 12 - 13

This international survey of recent animated films was selected from over 200 works screened at the 1988 Festival of Animation in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The first program includes works by Marcy Page (United States), Josko Marusic (Yugoslavia), the Brothers Quay (England), and Priit Pjarn (Estonia), among others. The second program includes works by Borivoj Dovnikovic (Yugoslavia), Steve Segal (United States), Ed Ackerman and Colin Morton (Canada), Piotr Dumala (Poland), Eduard Nazarov (Soviet Union), and Gyula Nagy (Hungary). The series has been organized by Louise Beaudet, curator of animation, Cinémathèque Québécoise, Quebec; and Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

SVANKMAJER December 16 - 19, 1988

A four-day program of disquieting films by the Czechoslovakian animator Jan Svankmajer includes eleven short films from the last three decades and his most recent feature-length movie, Alice (1987). Svankmajer is an eclectic filmmaker at the forefront of contemporary animation who recognizes and molds to his own artistic ends the expressive qualities of a variety of styles, genres, and techniques. Influenced by Surrealism, the filmmaker is interested in the creative and explosive juxtapositions of materials and objects. He works with drawn animation, puppets, live action, found and documentary footage, and trick photography, creating a complex world of mystery and childhood fantasy. The program was organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

* * * *

No. 115

For further information or photographs contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.