

The Museum of Modern Art

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LUMIÈRE'S CENTURY: THE ART OF REALITY

April 16 - June 8, 1993

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of motion pictures, an exhibition celebrating the French documentary tradition is on view at The Museum of Modern Art from April 16 to June 8, 1993. **LUMIÈRE'S CENTURY: THE ART OF REALITY** comprises fifty-five short and feature-length non-fiction films, from Louis Lumière to the present, which reveal a century of imagination, creation, and history in world cinema.

The exhibition explores the Lumière legacy in French documentaries, beginning with Louis and Auguste Lumière's pioneering silent films *Arrivée d'un train* and *Le déjeuner de bébé* (both 1895) and continuing through the New York premiere of Nicolas Philibert's behind-the-scenes look at *La Ville Louvre* (1991). Presented in the series are both classic and avant-garde documentaries, many of which have been unavailable for years, by some of the world's most esteemed filmmakers, including Marguerite Duras, Georges Franju, Louis Malle, Chris Marker, Jean Renoir, Alain Resnais, Jean Rouch, and Agnes Varda.

Other highlights of the series include: *Chartres* (1923, Jean Grémillon), a portrait of the great cathedral with sequences tinted in blue, yellow, and sepia; *A propos de Nice* (1929-30, Jean Vigo), an avant-garde look at Nice during carnival, contrasting the city's rich and poor quarters; *Farrebique* (1946, Georges Rouquier), a lyrical chronicle of farm life over

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four seasons; *La mystère Picasso* (1956, Henri-Georges Clouzot), a study of Pablo Picasso drawing in colored inks, which bleed through the paper between the camera and himself; and *Humain, trop humain* (1972, Louis Malle), an unconventional look at life on an assembly line.

Louis Lumière, along with his brother Auguste, began making documentary films in 1895, long before the term was coined. Lumière's obsession was to capture the enthusiasms, entertainments, and everyday life of the French people at the turn of the century. His passion for invention, his resourcefulness, and his love of light and movement mark his brief films as true works of art. Lumière's lasting influence is evident in the films included in the exhibition, works which are fundamental to the study of cinema.

LUMIÈRE'S CENTURY: THE ART OF REALITY was organized by AFAA-Intermédia, Audiovisuel Documentaire, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, France, and coordinated for the Museum by Adrienne Mancica, curator, Department of Film, and William Sloan, librarian, Circulating Film and Video Library.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.