

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES COLLECTION OF FILMS AND VIDEOS ON THE ARTS FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

Exhibition features highlights from the collection, May 1 - 30, 1994

April 20, 1994.....Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art, announced today the transfer of the collection of documentaries on the arts, as well as avant-garde films and videotapes, from The American Federation of Arts (A.F.A.). Comprising 139 works, many by award-winning American and European film- and videomakers, the collection is now available through the Museum's Circulating Film and Video Library. The documentaries focus on painting and sculpture, architecture, crafts, photography, dance, and filmmaking.

Ms. Bandy stated, "We are greatly pleased that The American Federation of Arts has agreed to let us maintain this exceptional and important collection. These works will enhance the Museum's Circulating Film and Video Library to form a rich source of material on the visual and performing arts. We are fortunate to be able to make these works accessible to programmers, curators, teachers, and librarians."

Serena Rattazzi, Director, The American Federation of Arts, commented, "It is gratifying that this finely-honed selection of outstanding works will continue to be available through The Museum of Modern Art's pioneering Circulating Film and Video Library. I cannot think of a more appropriate home for the collection."

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The exhibition **FILMS ON THE ARTS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS COLLECTION AT MoMA**, shown on weekends from May 1 to 30, 1994, includes works by leading film- and videomakers from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Featured are programs of shorts on photography, dance, art, and architecture, by directors such as James Ackerman, Skip Blumberg, Nancy Holt, Edgar B. Howard, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Sue Marx.

The A.F.A. built one of this country's finest circulating collections of films and videos on the arts. In 1993, they arranged the transfer of distribution rights of this collection to the Museum. Founded in 1909, the A.F.A. is an art museum service organization that aims to broaden public appreciation of the visual arts, mainly through its extensive program of traveling fine arts and media arts exhibitions.

FILMS ON THE ARTS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS COLLECTION AT MoMA is organized by William Sloan, Librarian, and Kitty Cleary and Marilyn Mancino, Assistants, 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.