

TIGHT BINDING

# ART OF THE TWENTIES

NO. 69  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILMS OF THE TWENTIES TO BE SCREENED  
DURING MOMA ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION: CHAPLIN  
DUCHAMP, D.W. GRIFFITH AND MAN RAY TO BE INCLUDED

ART OF THE TWENTIES: FILMS FROM THE ARCHIVE, an exhibition of short and feature films made in the 1920s, will be screened beginning November 26, 1979 as part of ART OF THE TWENTIES, The Museum of Modern Art's major exhibition in its 50th Anniversary year. The films have been selected by Eileen Bowser, Curator of Film.

Short films by some of the leading artists of the period--Hans Richter, Walter Ruttmann, Man Ray, Moholy-Nagy, Marcel Duchamp, Paul Strand and Charles Sheeler--who expressed in their films the concerns reflected in their work in other mediums, will be screened at noon on Mondays and Tuesdays, November 26 through February 5, 1980.

Many of the major feature-length films of the decade will be screened from December 22 through January 27. Included will be Broken Blossoms (1919) produced, written and directed by D.W. Griffith, La Roue (1922) by Abel Gance, Metropolis (1925) by Fritz Lang, The Kid (1921) by Charlie Chaplin, Man With A Movie Camera (1929) by Dziga Vertov, and, of particular interest, Marcel L'Herbier's L'Inhumaine (1923) which will be shown in a newly restored print. L'Inhumaine was a conscious attempt to synthesize the concerns of modern art. It is significant that Léger worked on the film.

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**The Museum of Modern Art**

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, 212-956-6100 Cable: Modernart

50th Anniversary



"It is appropriate that Broken Blossoms, a film by D.W. Griffith should open the major section of a film series dedicated to the exploration of film art in the twenties," notes Ms. Bowser. "In the years prior to 1919 his films led the way toward the consideration of film as art, not only in America where he was the acknowledged film master, but in European countries where most of his major films were seen only in the postwar period.

"At the beginning of the twenties, the concept of film as the dynamic new art form of the 20th century was accepted by a number of intellectuals, even if the general public continued to think of it as an entertainment medium," observes Ms. Bowser. "Moreover, in addition to the interest of artists and writers in film as a vital part of the modern movement, many filmmakers who were not themselves aligned with artistic modernism began at this time to approach their work with a greater sense of artistic seriousness and ambition than ever before. The question was no longer whether or not cinema was an art, but of what elements this new art was composed. " Beginning with the years just before World War I film had entered the consciousness of many advanced poets, writers, and painters. Ezra Pound enthusiastically remarked that while the novel had been the appropriate art for a world of small towns (where everybody seemed to know everybody else's story), film was the art form appropriate to the modern metropolis. It was surely a signal day when, in 1916, the great French poet and art critic Guillaume Apollinaire took the young Fernand Léger to see a Charlie Chaplin film. And when The Museum of Modern Art was founded in 1929, director Alfred H. Barr, Jr., very much in touch with the sensibility and concerns of the time, already had it in mind to include film among the arts to be collected and exhibited.

ART OF THE TWENTIES opens November 17 and runs through January 22, 1980 and is selected entirely from the collections of the Museum's six curatorial

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departments to offer an international survey of all the visual arts from the decade 1919-1929: painting, sculpture, prints, photographs, posters, film, architecture, design, and projects for the theater. The exhibition is being directed by William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings, and is being made possible by a grant from SCM Corporation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The exhibition has been conceived by Mr. Lieberman to suggest what might have been the first presentation by the new Museum of Modern Art had it chosen to open to the public on November 8, 1929 with a contemporary exhibition rather than with the widely popular exhibition of the Post-Impressionist painters.

--The schedule of film showings is enclosed.--

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For further information, please contact Earl Hatleberg, Film Press Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 956-7294.

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