

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel: 212-708-9400 Cable: MODERTART Telex: 62370 MODART ENTRANCE at 18 W. 54

#68

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO OFFER THE AMERICAN PREMIERE  
OF THE LATEST FILM OF MASTER ANIMATOR NORMAN McLAREN

Norman McLaren, the original head of the animation unit of the National Film Board of Canada and one of the pioneers of experimental animation, will be present on Friday, December 2, when his recently completed film Narcissus receives its U.S. premiere at The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. McLaren has announced that Narcissus, his 59th film, will be his last. Also on the program will be a selection of his earlier, highly influential animations. The screening will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

For his retelling of the legend of Narcissus, Norman McLaren filmed a dance that had been specially choreographed by Fernand Nault, then manipulated the images to create a rich variety of special effects. In the film's climactic sequence, Narcissus enters into a complex pas-de-deux with his own image, during which bodies merge, multiply, flicker, and fade. Jean-Louis Morin of the Martha Graham Company stars as Narcissus, with Sylvie Kinal of the Cleveland Ballet as Echo and Sylvain Lafortune of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens as Narcissus's hunting companion. The music, composed by Maurice Blackburn, features contralto Maureen Forrester.

Norman McLaren is no stranger to the Museum, having been the subject of a five-program retrospective in 1981. Born in 1914, he completed his first abstract films in 1933 while a student at the Glasgow School of Art. In 1941, he joined the National Film Board of Canada as head of the animation unit, and so began a collaboration between artist and institution that was to last some forty years. He is credited as being one of the first to experiment with, and popularize, optical printing and drawing images and sound directly on film; he also made one of the few existing 3-D animated films.

more/

The Museum's presentation of Narcissus will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, with a repeat screening at 2:30 on December 3. The program as a whole will be:

Narcissus. 1983. Music--Maurice Blackburn. Choreography--Fernand Nault. 22 min.  
A Chairy Tale. 1957. Co-maker--Claude Jutra. Music--Ravi Shankar, Chatur Lal, Modu Mullick. 10 min.  
Canon. 1964. Co-maker--Grant Munro. Music--Eldon Rathburn. 9½ min.  
La Poulette Grise. 1947. Music--Anna Malenfant. 5½ min.  
Rythmetic. 1956. Co-maker--Evelyn Lambart. Sound--Norman McLaren. 8½ min.  
Synchromy. 1971. Music--Norman McLaren. 7½ min.

This program is presented through the courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada. For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

November 1983

\*\*\*\*\*  
 For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 (212) 708-9752.

\*\*\*\*\*