

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FROM THE CIRCULATING FILM LIBRARY: ANIMATED FILMS OF GEORGE GRIFFIN AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL AND PURCHASE

Seven programs of animated films by the contemporary American artist George Griffin are now being distributed through the Circulating Film Library of The Museum of Modern Art. The programs encompass fourteen works made between 1969 and 1985 and are available in 16mm format.

Working with an astonishing variety of styles and techniques, Griffin has become one of the key figures among those independent American animators who have gone outside the conventions of Hollywood-style cartoons. In discussing his characteristic concerns, Griffin has said that "the tensions...between drawings and photography, fantasy and naturalism, performance and process have existed in animated film ever since Winsor McCay drew Gertie." In fact, Griffin's references extend back even beyond Gertie the Dinosaur to flipbooks, Mutoscopes, and Eadweard Muybridge's stop-motion experiments, and forward to pixillation, Xerography, and in-camera matte photography. Griffin deploys this formidable array in order to confront issues of illusionism, formalism, reflexivity, contradiction. Yet, as film historian Amos Vogel notes, "This heavy agenda...is triumphantly overcome by playfulness; anti-didactic at its core, delicately balancing reason and emotion, the work exudes anti-authoritarianism by its very refusal to provide neat solutions, dazzling us instead with delicious, infinite contradictions..."

George Griffin's films are available from the Circulating Film Library of The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019; inquiries may be made by phone to (212) 708-9530. A brochure is available on request. The seven programs are available for rental and purchase; individual titles are available for purchase only.

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