

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FILM-MAKERS' COOPERATIVE: THIRTY YEARS OF ARTIST CINEMA

February 12 - 23, 1993

An exhibition of works selected from the Film-Makers' Cooperative in New York, designed to show the continuing vitality and variety of independent film and video, is presented at The Museum of Modern Art from February 12 to 23, 1993. **FILM-MAKERS' COOPERATIVE: THIRTY YEARS OF ARTIST CINEMA** features well-known works canonized in the histories of the avant-garde, as well as less familiar but equally innovative works that expanded the sexual, political, or aesthetic norms of their times.

The exhibition includes eight programs of short works selected from the more than 3,300 titles currently held by the Cooperative. Highlights include Jean Genet's *Un chant d'amour* (1950), the only film by the French writer, which is based on his novel *Our Lady of the Flowers*; Robert Frank's *The Sin of Jesus* (1961), based on Isaac Babal's story and filmed in sumptuous black and white by the noted photographer; Jack Smith's *Flaming Creatures* (1963), a rare screening of this seminal avant-garde work; Barbara Rubin's *Christmas on Earth* (1963), consisting of two films projected simultaneously onto one screen; and Mary Filippo's *Peace O' Mind* (1983), which uses educational and institutional films from the 1940s and 1950s to examine mental and physical entrapment.

The films and videos in this series require a creative act of seeing and hearing on the part of the audience, and therefore mirror the original creative process of the work.

The Film-Makers' Cooperative was established in 1962 in New York City by a group of filmmakers that included Jonas and Adolfas Mekas, Robert Frank, and Shirley Clarke. Today it is the oldest and largest distributor of "personal" noncommercial works in film and, recently, video. Film- and videomakers can join the Cooperative by providing a copy of their film or video: members can set their own rental price and write their own catalogue copy.

FILM-MAKERS' COOPERATIVE: 30 YEARS OF ARTIST CINEMA was organized by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

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