

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART RENAMES DEPARTMENT OF FILM TO DEPARTMENT OF FILM AND VIDEO

The Museum of Modern Art announces the renaming of its Department of Film to the Department of Film and Video. The change was approved by the Board of Trustees at its November meeting. "The new name is entirely appropriate because it describes the broad range of video art activities this Department has already assumed," stated Mary Lea Bandy, chief curator, Department of Film and Video. "The video programs have greatly expanded in recent years to include screenings and performances in the Museum's theaters, as well as video installations in the galleries. Also, for more than ten years, we have been collecting and distributing video art."

In addition to the exhibitions in the Museum's video gallery, the Museum regularly screens videotapes in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 in such programs as VIDEO VIEWPOINTS, in which independent videomakers introduce and discuss their work, and FROM THE ARCHIVES. Other exhibitions include video installations; a series of video premieres; and an annual symposium on video and technology with artists, writers, and leaders in the video and computer industry.

In 1935 the Department of Film and Video, then known as the Film Library, was founded, and the first curator, Iris Barry, immediately began collecting films. The Film Archive today contains more than 12,000 international films of both contemporary and historical importance, comprising fiction features, animation, avant-garde works, propaganda films, and independent films. The film preservation program has successfully restored half of the film collection, and more than twelve million feet of nitrate film

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have been transferred to safety stock. The Department's priority is to preserve films made before 1950 from nitrate deterioration and all color films from fading.

The Museum's video program was established in 1974. The collection contains 700 independently produced videotapes from around the world. Recent acquisitions include all the videotapes produced by Joan Jonas, Nam June Paik, and William Wegman. **The Video Study Center** was formed in 1984 and includes a reference library of exhibition catalogues, periodicals, and interviews documenting the history of video art.

The Museum's film exhibition program has included more than 700 exhibitions since 1939, in addition to its ongoing series CINEPROBE, WHAT'S HAPPENING (which also includes video presentations), and RECENT FILMS FROM GERMANY, among others. **The Circulating Film and Video Library** makes available to other institutions some 1,300 films spanning the history of cinema and 100 videotapes. **The Film Stills Archive** contains four million photographs of films from all periods and includes color slides and transparencies. Approximately three shows of film-still enlargements and posters are mounted throughout the year in the theater gallery. **The Film Study Center** permits film students, scholars, and filmmakers to view films from the Department's study collection. They also have access to a large collection of screenplays and dialogue continuities, files of film reviews and articles, reference books, and posters.

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