

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY,  
March 1, 1956

.....:  
: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A PRESS SCREENING :  
: :  
: TWO NEW FILMS BY CHARLES AND RAY EAMES :  
: :  
: Tuesday, February 28, 4:30 PM :  
: :  
: 4th floor Projection Room :  
: Museum of Modern Art, 21 West 53rd Street :  
: :  
: Please use the enclosed return post card for your reply :  
:.....:

No. 15

TWO NEW FILMS BY CHARLES AND RAY EAMES  
AVAILABLE FROM MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM LIBRARY

Two new color films by Charles and Ray Eames, HOUSE and TEXTILES AND ORNAMENTAL ARTS OF INDIA, will be available for rent from the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, beginning March 1. Both films use 35mm slides in a film form, a new technique developed by the Eames in recent years. The rental fee is \$10. Inquiries should be directed to Margareta Akermark.

HOUSE is a lyrical interpretation of the home these two artist-designers built for themselves five years ago on a hillside in Southern California overlooking the ocean. The film shows in a series of kaleidoscopic views the details that delight their artist eyes -- shadows on a corner wall, part of a table laid for breakfast, a bowl of apples, a painting, the stairway seen from above so that the steps form a beautiful and unusual pattern, a group of spools of bright thread, a dish of colored pebbles, flowers - red, pink, yellow and orange - in and outside the house, a necklace of shells lying on a table, the drafting table in the studio, a ships model, a spinning top and ancient pottery, and kites from India. There is no narration in this unusual film which is composed entirely of individual 35mm slides. The house is first shown in its spectacular setting above the ocean. Then the viewer is taken inside the home where the furniture, works of art and ordinary household objects reveal the character of the people who live in it -- what they do, how they work, what they enjoy. The musical score for flute, harp, cello and piano was especially composed by Elmer Bernstein.

The other Eames' film, which uses the same technique, was made at the exhibition TEXTILES AND ORNAMENTAL ARTS OF INDIA, presented at the Museum of Modern Art under the direction of Monroe Wheeler in the spring of 1955. It is an unusual and spectacular trip through the exhibition in which the viewers' eyes are led by those of Mr. and Mrs. Eames. After an opening view of the Museum facade and the ground floor of the Museum where the show was installed by Alexander Girard, Edgar Kaufmann, who selected the objects and fabrics in the show from three continents, opens the narration by explaining the importance of color in Indian fabrics. This is followed by

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an off-screen narration by Mrs. Pupul Jayakar, who was sent to the United States by the Indian government to assist the exhibition. In a prose-poem, Mrs. Jayakar explains the symbolism of color in Indian fabrics. The musical score is a recording made by Angel Records of two famous Indian musicians who also came here in connection with the exhibition. Their "Morning Raga" is played throughout while the eye is lead by the Eames' camera to details of embroidered clothes, the hanging saris over the reflecting pool, the gold pillars, precious jewelry and paper ornaments, brass lamps and gay Indian kites against the glass wall behind which the New York skyline can be discerned. The film reveals the color, sound, texture, poetry and rhythm of a people rich in tradition and in a philosophy that touches every object of daily life.

Charles and Ray Eames, well-known designers, have made a significant contribution to visual education techniques in these film stills in film form. Other films they have produced in recent years include A COMMUNICATIONS PRIMER, BLACKTOP and PARADE, all of which are available for rent from the Museum of Modern Art's Film Library.

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Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, Circle 5-8900.

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15-A

## HOUSE

Film made by Charles and Ray Eames, 1955

1 reel. color. sound. running time 11 minutes. \$10.00 per showing

A record of a lived in house, designed by Charles Eames and his wife, Ray, for themselves. Situated in Southern California on a hillside meadow overlooking the sea, the combination house and studio is a delightful structure of steel and glass, designed, of standard materials, as a dwelling place and place of work. From facade to interior, upstairs and down, to studio and back again, the film becomes a visual poem evolving from the four walls and accumulation of beloved objects that make a house and reflect the lives of the people within.

### Film Credits:

1. HOUSE  
after five years living
2. MUSIC  
composed by ELMER BERNSTEIN
3. played by: Martin Ruderman..... flute  
Dorothy Remsen..... harp  
Armand Kaproff..... cello  
Elmer Bernstein..... piano
4. Made by Charles and Ray Eames  
house... 1949. film... 1955.

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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

15-B

## TEXTILES AND ORNAMENTAL ARTS OF INDIA

Film made by Charles and Ray Eames, 1955

1 reel. color. sound. running time 11 minutes. \$10.00 per showing

Rarely has there been available on film a record of an exhibition such as the great East Indian exhibition collected and shown by the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1955. Here is the color, sound, texture, poetry, and rhythm of a people rich in tradition and in a philosophy that touches every object of daily life.

### Film Credits:

1. an exhibition held at the MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, New York  
MONROE WHEELER, Director of the exhibition. This exhibition was made possible through the Museum's International Program.
2. music recorded by and used with the permission of ANGEL RECORDS

#### A MORNING RAGA

played by: Ustad Ali Akbar Khan ..... Sarod  
Pandit Chatur Lal ..... Tabla  
accompanied by Shirish Gor.... Tamboura

Mr. Khan and Mr. Lal were brought to this country for performances given in relation to the exhibition.

3. narration by MRS: PUPUL JAYAKAR, representative of the India Ministry of Commerce and Industry at the exhibition.

material loaned by: the All-India Handicrafts Board Collection  
the Textile Museum of the Calico Mills, Ahmedabad  
the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay  
the Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
the Chicago Natural History Museum  
the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
the Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.  
the Heeramanek Galleries, New York  
and several important private collections

4. material for the exhibition selected by EDGAR KAUFMANN, JR.

Mr. Kaufmann and Mr. Girard traveled to India and England especially for the exhibition.

5. exhibition designed and installed by ALEXANDER GIRARD
6. film made by Charles and Ray Eames, 1955.