

The Museum of Modern Art

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FILM ON MARCEL DUCHAMP AT MUSEUM

"Chess Games with Marcel Duchamp," an award-winning hour-long documentary on one of the 20th century's most important artists, is now being presented at The Museum of Modern Art in specially scheduled showings each Tuesday and Friday at noon through February 22. The film, never before screened theatrically in this country, is being shown in conjunction with the current Marcel Duchamp retrospective now on view at the Museum through February 24.

"Chess Games with Marcel Duchamp" offers a rare glimpse of the man whose art and life had attained the status of legend while he was still alive. A chess game between Duchamp and producer-writer-director Jean Marie Drot provides the occasion for a discussion in which Duchamp talks freely and candidly about himself, his art, chess, and his adopted home of New York City.

The film also shows Duchamp walking through his 1963 retrospective at the Pasadena Art Museum, discussing specific works of art and reminiscing. There are, too, comments about Duchamp by such prominent art world personalities as Naum Gabo, Philip Johnson, Nicolas Calas, Hans Richter, Jeanne Reynal, Bill Copley and George Staempfli; footage of a visit by Duchamp to the New York apartment of his friend Edgard Varèse, the composer; and scenes of the artist roaming the streets of New York.

Jean Marie Drot, a novelist and critic as well as the producer of more than 100 films on art and artists, is regarded in France as much an expert and critic of the visual arts as he is a producer-director. "Chess Games with Marcel Duchamp," made in 1963-64 and winner of the Grand Prize at the 1964 Bergamo Festival, was a co-production of National Educational Television and ORTF (Office de Radiodiffusion Television Française); Curtis W. Davis served as executive producer. The film has been programmed at the Museum by Margareta Akermark, Associate Director of the Department of Film.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7296, -7295.

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