

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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#39

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA CELEBRATES NEW VIDEO ACQUISITIONS WITH SELECTIONS FROM THE CIRCULATING VIDEO LIBRARY

New Orleans jazzmen and art-museum lecturers, anti-nuclear protestors and Haitian immigrants are some of the subjects of SELECTIONS FROM THE CIRCULATING VIDEO LIBRARY, to be shown at The Museum of Modern Art from September 6-18. The new video service, inaugurated in December 1983, is a parallel to the Museum's influential and long-established Circulating Film Library. With the recent addition of 20 new titles, the Circulating Video Library now has a catalog of some 65 works by independent artists.

Of the six works selected for this exhibition, four are documentaries that go beyond the conventions of the genre in seeking individual modes of expression. Between the Frames: The Docents by Antonio Muntadas is chapter five of an eight-part series examining the art world and the intermediaries between artists and their audience. Stevenson J. Palfi's award-winning Piano Players Rarely Ever Play Together brings together three generations of New Orleans greats--Isidore "Tuts" Washington, Henry "Professor Longhair" Byrd, and Allen Toussaint--for a unique and moving group session. In The Pursuit of Happiness, Julie Gustafson and John Reilly use video to imitate the methods of the realistic novel in presenting a disparate group of Americans hoping to realize their inalienable rights. The fourth of the documentaries, Collis Davis and Raymond Cajuste's Voyage of Dreams, recreates the experiences of Haitians who have tried and failed to emigrate to the United States.

Rounding out the selection are videotapes that exemplify artists' concerns with performance and perception. Tapes and Unity Through Strength by Pier Marton combine the artist's performance with manipulation of the screen image; and Bill Viola's Reflecting Pool, a collection of five separate works, describes a personal journey of perception.

The Museum's Video Program is directed by Barbara London, Assistant Curator in the Department of Film. Video exhibitions are made possible through grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

August 1984

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

SCHEDULE

SELECTIONS FROM THE CIRCULATING VIDEO LIBRARY

September 6 - 18, 1984

Monday

Pier Marton: Tapes. 1979. 16 min./Unity Through Strength. 1981-82. 7 min.

Tuesday

Antonio Muntadas: Between the Frames; The Docents. 1983. 12 min.

Thursday

Bill Viola: Reflecting Pool. 1977-80. 60 min.

Friday

Julie Gustafson and John Reilly: The Pursuit of Happiness. 1984. 60 min.

Saturday

Collis Davis and Raymond Cajuste: Voyage of Dreams. 1983. (Computer graphics by Nemo.) 28 min.

Sunday

Stevenson J. Palfi: Piano Players Rarely Ever Play Together. 1983. 59 min.

All showings are held in the Museum's Video Gallery, Ground Floor.

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