

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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WHAT'S HAPPENING? FALL SEASON BEGINS OCTOBER 18, 1990

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films on social and political issues, begins its fall 1990 season on October 18. The schedule of films, shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

OCTOBER 18

Gei Zantzinger
***Susumu* (1990)**

Described as, "part history, part biography, part music documentary," Gei Zantzinger's *Susumu* describes the emotional story of three generations of Japanese Americans. *Susumu*, which means progress in Japanese, combines music by jazz pianist Sumi Tonooka with narrative to portray the internment of the musician's mother during World War II.

Ellen Bruno

***Samsara: Death and Rebirth in Cambodia* (1989)**

Drawing on memories of survivors, this film is a portrait of Cambodia, shattered by war, political turmoil, and the atrocities of the Khymer Rouge, struggling to reconstruct itself. Ellen Bruno's documentary seeks to portray a nation through its folklore, dreams, and Buddhist teachings.

OCTOBER 25

Indu Khrishnan
***Knowing Her Place* (1990)**

In her first independently produced documentary, Indu Khrishnan investigates the "cultural schizophrenia" suffered by Vasu, an Indian-Asian woman living in New York. Shot over three years in the United States and India, *Knowing Her Place* combines photographs, *verité* sequences, and experimental techniques to probe the conflicts that immigrants, and particularly women, confront in establishing who they are and where they belong.

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Mako Idemitsu
***Kiyoko's Situation* (1989)**

Since 1973, Mako Idemitsu has been making videotapes that explore the psychology of the family and the role of women in Japan. In her darkest work, Idemitsu presents Kiyoko, a painter overwhelmed by the societal conventions exerted upon her by her family and husband. As her artistic endeavors are misunderstood and criticized, the tensions in *Kiyoko's Situation* build to their tragic end.

NOVEMBER 1
Helke Misselwitz
***Winter Ade* (1989)**

Winter Ade explores the lives and aspirations of women of all ages in the German Democratic Republic. The film offers a beautifully constructed view of life in East Germany and displays a remarkable level of trust and solidarity between the filmmakers and their subjects.

NOVEMBER 8
Robby Henson
***Trouble Behind* (1990)**

Robby Henson's third documentary examines the legacy of a race riot on Corbin, Kentucky, a small town that "deported" its entire black population in 1919. In addition to the unmediated and disturbing statements elicited from Corbin's current residents, *Trouble Behind* creates a historical context through interviews with historians, scenes from *Birth of A Nation*, and newsreel clips.

NOVEMBER 15
Terri Randall
***To Know Where They Are* (1989)**

Producer/director Terri Randall documents a visit she and her father made to the village of Josefow, Poland, in search of their ancestral roots. There they discover two Catholic peasant women, who, at great risk to themselves, hid members of the filmmaker's Jewish family during World War II. *To Know Where They Are* allows these two women to tell their story for the first time in fifty years.

Marcel Lozinsky
***Witness: Anti-Semitism* (1989)**

Marcel Lozinsky's video provides an account of a massacre of Jews that took place in Kielce, Poland, one year after World War II ended. A coproduction by Polish and French filmmakers, *Witness* was secretly filmed at the site of the massacre.

NOVEMBER 29

Mark Mori and Susan Robinson
Building Bombs (1989)

This film examines the domestic consequences of the arms race by focusing on the Savannah River Plant facility, where weapons-grade plutonium and tritium are manufactured. Mark Mori and Susan Robinson intertwine historical footage, personal stories, and evidence of decades of environmental disregard in examining the social and environmental impact of building nuclear weapons.

DECEMBER 6

Olivia Carrescia
Todos Santos Cuchumatan: Report from a Guatemalan Village (1982)
Todos Santos: The Survivors (1989)

These two films depict the rich cultural life of the Mam Indians, who are descendants of the Maya and live in Todos Santos, a village in the Guatemalan highlands. The first reveals the particulars of the Indians' daily lives; the second examines the survival and perseverance of these people in the midst of Guatemala's bloody civil war.

DECEMBER 13

Helena Solberg
The Forbidden Land (1989)

Helena Solberg documents the involvement of the progressive wing of the Catholic Church in the struggle for land reform in the Amazon Basin of Brazil. *The Forbidden Land* follows prominent Brazilian priests and bishops, who, despite opposition from the Vatican, continue to support landless peasants in their ongoing and often bloody battle against Brazil's powerful landowners.

DECEMBER 20

Victor Schonfeld and Jenifer Millstone
Shattered Dreams: Picking Up the Pieces (1987)

In this epic three-hour documentary, Victor Schonfeld and Jenifer Millstone examine the state of Israel and the forces that threaten to tear it apart. Contrasting early visions of an ideal Zionist state with the complex and troubling realities of the present, *Shattered Dreams: Picking Up the Pieces* details the conflicts that currently are at issue in Israel.

DECEMBER 27

Gary Pollard
Going Up (1990)

Using time-lapse photography, Gary Pollard records the creation of a forty-story New York skyscraper. The building of a skyscraper is an incredible feat

of engineering which, in *Going Up*, is transformed into a visually exciting experience.

Anne Johnson
Minnie Black's Gourd Band (1988)

A light-hearted portrait of a woman, eighty-nine years old, shows her sculpting musical instruments out of gourds for a senior citizen band, of which she is the founder.

JANUARY 3
Erika Anderson
Lifting the Blackout: Images of North Korea (1989)

This work by Erika Anderson represents the first American-produced documentary about North Korea since the country's division in 1945. *Lifting the Blackout: Images of North Korea* offers a glimpse of the history, politics, and culture of a nation closed to most of the Western world for over four decades. The filmmaker visits North Korean homes, schools, workplaces, and recreation centers and includes interviews with both ordinary citizens and government officials.

JANUARY 10
Peter Raymont
The World is Watching (1989)

Peter Raymont's one-hour investigative documentary critically examines the creation of television news. By simultaneously showing a camera crew working in Nicaragua and the editing process in the New York newsroom, *The World Is Watching* reveals the inevitable distortions that become part of the process of presenting news.

JANUARY 17
Bushra Azzouz, Marlene Farnum, and Nettie Kuneki
...And Woman Wove It in a Basket (1989)

The film is an oral history focusing on Nettie Jackson Kuneki, a Klickitat Indian basketweaver. Imbricated basketry is a traditional craft of Klickitat women that has waned over the last few generations. Bushra Azzouz and Marlene Farnum follow the making of a basket from start to finish and examine the social activity centered around the weaving.

JANUARY 24

Mary Lance and Eric Breitbart

***Diego Rivera: I Paint What I See* (1989)**

This work by Mary Lance and Eric Breitbart is the first biographical film on the famed Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. *I Paint What I See* explores Rivera's life and work, including his stormy twenty-five year relationship with Frida Kahlo and the destruction of his mural at Rockefeller Center. The film was shot on location in Mexico and the United States and includes a remarkable collection of archival film and photographs, much of which has not been seen before.

JANUARY 31

Mark Kitchell

***Berkeley in the Sixties* (1990)**

Mark Kitchell portrays Berkeley, California, during the 1960s when the town and university campus were the focus of much radical dissent. Through interviews with several individuals, the filmmakers explore the issues and ideas of the era and its impact on later generations. Among the topics covered are the civil-rights movement, the rise of the anti-war effort, and the development of a counterculture.

WHAT'S HAPPENING is organized by William Sloan, librarian, Circulating Film Library, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art. Tickets are included with Museum admission, which is on a pay-what-you-wish basis after 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.