

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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A program of films by Maya Deren will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art on Thursday evening, November 17 at 8 p.m. Five films will be presented: Meshes in the Afternoon, At Land, A Study in Choreography, Ritual in Transformed Time, and The Very Eye of Night, interspersed with a discussion of Miss Deren's work by Miss Shirley Clarke, filmmaker; Miss Pearl Primus, dancer; and Amos Vogel, Director of the New York Film Festival. The speakers will be introduced by Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film.

Mr. Van Dyke has said, "If there was one pioneer responsible for the post-war revival of the personal, dedicated film in the United States, that pioneer would assume the shape and spirit of a woman -- Maya Deren."

Miss Deren was born in Russia in 1922, the daughter of an eminent psychiatrist. She came to the United States when she was five, returned to Europe to study in Switzerland, later attended Syracuse University, received her bachelor of arts degree from New York University and a master's degree from Smith College.

She was a dancer, lecturer and author; an authority on Haitian voodoo, the author of "Divine Horsemen: The Living God of Haiti"; a poet and, of course, one of the outstanding leaders of the avant-garde filmmakers before her death in 1961 at the age of 39. She was the first recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for creative work in the field of motion pictures. Her films received a number of awards including the First International Prize at the 16 mm Film Festival in Cannes in 1947.

She was the founder of the Creative Film Foundation, now no longer in existence, which supported other young filmmakers, among them Stan Brakhage, Robert Breer and Stan Vanderbeek, through Foundation awards.

Miss Deren has written, "In the discovery and revelation of cinematic intelligence lies the development of an art form eminently appropriate to our period of cultural development... In so doing it contributes to human experience which is the ideal function of all art expression."

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Mr. Van Dyke comments, "She has left us a heritage of telling images, of poetic cinematic concepts and striking techniques, of an evocative, meditative, restless art which remains today fresh and stimulating. Perhaps because she never compromised with her major concern -- that magical entity which is man."

The program is being given as part of the regular Thursday evening series at the Museum and is open to the public at no extra / <sup>charge.</sup> The films have been loaned to the Museum by Cinema 16.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.