

The Museum of Modern Art

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MoMA FILM CURATOR ADRIENNE MANCIA TO RECEIVE HONORARY DECORATION FROM REPUBLIC OF ITALY JANUARY 22

Adrienne Mancia, curator in the Department of Film at The Museum of Modern Art, has been chosen to receive the Croce della Repubblica, the Order of the Republic of Italy. One of Italy's highest civilian honors, the award is rarely given to foreigners. The decoration will be presented on Friday, January 22, 1988, at 6:00 p.m., by Italian Consul General Francesco Corrias in a ceremony at "Cinema Italia-Roberto Rossellini," Carnegie Screening Room, 887 Seventh Avenue at 56 Street.

Renato Pachetti, president of RAI Corporation (New York), who is currently engaged in the promotion of Italian films in New York through "Cinema Italia-Roberto Rossellini," states "Adrienne Mancia has probably contributed more than any other person to the introduction of Italian cinema in America. Her knowledge of Italian films is extraordinary."

Gian Paolo Cresci, president of SACIS (Rome), the worldwide distribution wing of RAI, who has also been active in "Cinema Italia," adds, "Adrienne Mancia's generosity and energy have made her a special friend to the members of the Italian film community. No one is more deserving of this special honor."

Appointed curator in 1977, Ms. Mancia first joined The Museum of Modern Art in 1964 and soon became responsible for all film exhibitions. With the encouragement of Willard Van Dyke, at that time director of the Department of Film, she reworked the Museum's auditorium exhibition program. The new structure permitted a balance between programs of classical films and those of

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the more neglected contemporary works. In 1969 she helped to create both CINEPROBE, a forum for independent filmmakers, and WHAT'S HAPPENING?, a series of topical documentaries, both of which continue today.

Many of Ms. Mancia's exhibitions reflect international film currents. Beginning in 1966 she introduced the "New Cinema" movement from Europe and Latin America in such series as CINEMA NOVO from Brazil and DAS NEUE KINO from West Germany. She also inaugurated an annual showcase of international animated films from the Annecy and Zagreb Festivals in 1970.

Ms. Mancia has programmed comprehensive exhibitions of the works of significant directors, such as King Vidor, Luis Buñuel, Raoul Walsh, Manoel de Oliveira, Douglas Sirk, Michael Powell, Henry King, and Keisuke Kinoshita. In order to present current and retrospective films of various nations, she has worked closely with many national film archives, including the Cineteca Nazionale, Rome; the British Film Institute, London; the National Film Archive of India, Poona; and La Cinémathèque Française, Paris.

Since 1972 Ms. Mancia has been involved in the selection of works for NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS, the annual series presented in association with the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Among the filmmakers whose feature films were introduced to American audiences in this festival are Wim Wenders from West Germany, Steven Spielberg from the United States, Giuseppe Bertolucci from Italy, Hector Babenco from Brazil, and Pedro Almodóvar from Spain.

Ms. Mancia has served on several international film juries, including that of the Festival dei Popoli in Florence, as well as the juries of the Locarno, Vevey, Oberhausen, Rotterdam, Cannes (Camera d'Or), and Tokyo Festivals. She has also worked closely with the Festival for New Cinema in Pesaro, Italy. She

programmed the Flaherty International Film Seminars for several years and also served as film consultant to the American Psychiatric Association.

In 1984 Ms. Mancía was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture, in recognition of her contribution to the exhibition of French films in the United States.

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