

T • H • E K • I • T • C • H • E • N

484 Broome St New York City

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FILM / MUSIC II

Among the amazing achievements of the American avant-garde film was to wrest from its marginal economic position and primitive technology a powerful and flexible aesthetic. In the absence of sync sound recording equipment, a wide range of practices developed around the matching of sound and image - from the carefully composed relations of Peter Kubelka's Unsere Afrikarese (five years in the editing) to the use of pop music recordings as found objects - as in Kenneth Anger's Rabbit's Moon.

This program also includes one film from the European avant-garde, Jean-Marie Straub/Danielle Huillet's Introduction to Arnold Schoenberg's 'Accompaniment To a Cinematographic Scene'. As opposed to the American avant-garde's attempt at a balance between sound and image (in which the image almost always came out on top) the European avant-garde of the seventies placed a growing emphasis on verbal text.

Bitter Melons is an anthropological film about a small band of /Gwisan in Botswana, Africa. A blind musician, Ukxone, plays songs on his hunting bow which reflect the landscape and routines of daily life. In this unique blending of sound and image, we find (ironic) parallels to sixties' minimalist art.

TAKE THE 5:10 TO DREAMLAND (Bruce Connor) (1976 16mm sound color 5 minutes, 10 seconds). Perhaps the least well-known of the recent films by this master of image collage and sound.

BREATHING (Robert Breer) (1963 16mm sound color 5¼ minutes). A mid-sixties gem from the greatest living animator.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW (Beverly Grant/Tony Conrad; score executed by John Cale and Terry Riley) (1970 16mm sound b&w 10 minutes). Ten minutes of high minimalism in 1970.

UNSERE AFRIKARESE (Peter Kubelka) (1966 16mm sound color 12½ minutes). Midway between documentary and lyric, the soundtrack, as well as the image is, in every sense, composed.

INTRODUCTION TO ARNOLD SCHOENBERG'S 'ACCOMPANIMENT TO A CINEMATOGRAPHIC SCENE' (Jean-Marie Straub/Danielle Huillet) (1973 16mm sound color 15 minutes). Schoenberg's letter explains why he is leaving Nazi Germany.

- intermission -

RABBIT'S MOON (Kenneth Anger) (1950 16mm sound color 16 minutes). Filmed in Paris in 1950 with music by The Temptations, the film represents an early work by the maker of Scorpio Rising.

INVOCATION OF MY DEMON BROTHER (Kenneth Anger) (1969 16mm sound color 11 minutes). Filmed in San Francisco in 1969 with music by Mick Jagger on the Moog Synthesizer and a cast of notorious underground figures.

BITTER MELONS (John Marshall) (16mm sound color 30 minutes). One of the best-known of anthropological films on Africa. The music of the blind musician Ukwone grows directly out of his daily life and its landscape.

VALENTINE DE LAS SIERRAS (Bruce Baillie) (16mm sound color 10 minutes). Lyric or anthropology? The old song of the Mexican hero, Valentine, is sung by blind Jose Santollo Nasido.

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