

The Museum of Modern Art

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FILMS OF ANDREW NOREN AT MUSEUM

The Museum of Modern Art will provide a rare opportunity to see the films of Andrew Noren, whom Jonas Mekas has called "the sublime romantic of the cinema today." On Tuesday, October 19, at 5:30 pm, as part of the Museum's Cineprobe Series, the biographical films of Mr. Noren, "Kodak Ghost Poems" and "Visions of Christine," will be shown, with the filmmaker present to discuss his work with the audience immediately after the public showing. Part II of "Kodak Ghost Poems" and "Visions of Christine" have never been shown publicly.

"Kodak Ghost Poems," on which Noren has worked for the past four years, belongs to what Mekas terms the diary genre, a film form whose practitioners include Warren Sonbert, Gerard Malanga and Mekas himself. Diary films are usually comprised of short filmed segments of the filmmaker's own life and surroundings and in Noren's work the artist is often both subject and observer. Even when not actually appearing in the film, Noren is clearly more than a passive recorder, as he films the most personal and intricate details of his daily surroundings.

Noren's camera is preoccupied with and extraordinarily successful at conveying the sensual aspects of his experience -- sunlight through his windows, peeling paint on his walls, fabrics, the fur of a cat, the human body. As a blue fabric is sewn it takes on a color and texture peculiar to 15th century Flemish painting; a nude girl has the color of a Bonnard; even a sunset, one of the most clichéd photographic subjects, assumes a fresh beauty. In the exploration of all the aspects of his physical existence, Noren focuses frequently on sexuality and lovemaking. Consistent with his dual role as artist and participant, Noren is often physically engaged in the acts he films, creating in the viewer a curious combination of detachment and involvement.

The Cineprobe Series, programmed by Adrienne Mancina, Associate Curator of the Department of Film, and made possible by a grant from Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), features the work of independent filmmakers, who are always present to discuss their films with the Museum audience.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7296.