

Pioneers of the Avant Garde

Grand Illusion Cinema

January 24, 2013

Manhatta (1921)

Directed by Charles Sheeler and Paul Strand

8 min. / b&w / silent / 18fps shown at 24fps

Intertitles excerpted from various poems by Walt Whitman.

Aka: *Mannahatta* (early alternate title), *New York the Magnificent* (first run, Rialto Theatre, NY, probably chosen by the theater), *Fumée de New York* (Paris, 1922).

Music: "Manhatta" by The Cinematic Orchestra (Ninja Tune, 2011)

Print source: Private collection

The Life and Death of 9413: A Hollywood Extra (1928)

Robert Florey and Slavko Vorkapić

12 min. / b&w / silent / 18fps shown at 24fps

Music: selections from *Organ Transplants Vol. 1* by Stock, Hausen, & Walkman (Hot Air, 1996)

Print source: Private collection

The Fall of the House of Usher (1928)

James Sibley Watson, Jr. and Melville Webber

14 min. / b&w / silent

Music: selections from the album *Heroes* (1977) by David Bowie: "Sense of Doubt," "Moss Garden" (w/ Brian Eno), and "Neuköln" (w/ Brian Eno).

Print source: Private collection

Emak-Bakia (1926)

Man Ray

15 min. / b&w / silent / 18fps shown at 24fps

Music: "Luz aeterna" and "Aventures" by Gyorgi Ligeti

Print source: Private collection

Experimental Animation, aka Peanut Vendor (fragment, 1933)

Len Lye

2 min. / b&w / sound

Soundtrack: Red Nichols and His Five Pennies, "Peanut Vendor" (Brunswick, 1931)

Print source: Private collection

Stars and Stripes (1940)

Norman McLaren

3 min. / color / sound

Soundtrack: music by John Philip Sousa

Print source: Private collection

Meshes of the Afternoon (1943)

Maya Deren

14 min. / b&w / sound

Soundtrack: score by Teiji Ito (added in 1959).

Awards: Grand Prix International, avant-garde section, Cannes 1947; Library of Congress National Film Registry, 1990.

Print source: *Film-makers' Cooperative*

What, Who, How (1957)

Stan VanDerBeek

8 min. / b&w / sound

Awards: Bronze medal 1958 Brussels International Experimental Film Competition. Award of Merit 1959, Creative Film Foundation, NYC.

Print source: *Film-makers' Cooperative*

Bridges-Go-Round (1958)

Shirley Clarke

8 min. / color / sound

Soundtracks: version 1 scored by Teo Macero; version 2 electronic score by Louis & Bebe Barron

Print source: *Film-makers' Cooperative*

21-87 (1964)

Arthur Lipsett

10 min. / b&w / sound

Print source: *Private collection*

Suggested Reading

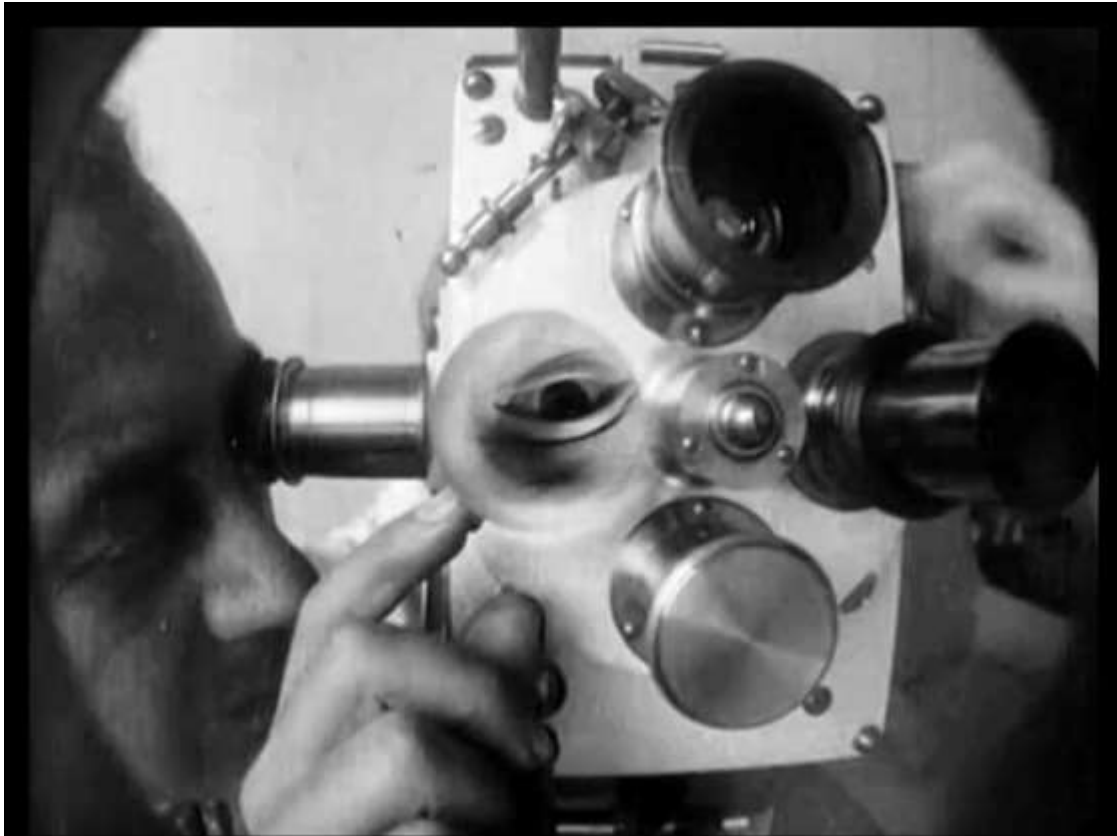
Jan-Christopher Horak (ed.), *Lovers of Cinema: The First American Avant-Garde, 1919-1945* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1995)

Bruce Posner, *Unseen Cinema: Early American Avant-Garde Filmmaking 1893-1941* (Anthology Film Archives, 2001). Available direct from the author via <http://www.unseen-cinema.com/order.html>

P. Adams Sitney, *Visionary Film: The American Avant-Garde, 1943-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2000; third edition, originally published in 1974)

Wheeler Winston Dixon, *The Exploding Eye: A Re-Visionary History of American Experimental Film*, (State University of New York [SUNY] Press, 1997)

Robert Russett & Cecile Starr, eds., *Experimental Animation: Origins of a New Art* (Da Capo Press, 1988. Originally published as *Experimental Animation*, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1976)



Pioneers of the Avant Garde

Rare 16mm prints of
experimental short films

1921 - 1964

Grand Illusion Cinema

Thursday, January 24, 2013 ~ 7:00 PM only

1403 NE 50th Street ~ in the U District

grandillusioncinema.org || sprocketociety.org