

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

CINEPROBE

An Evening with Larry Jordan (Petaluma, California)

Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30

Screening of SOPHIE'S PLACE. 1986. 90 minutes.

Filmmaker present.

"I consider it my first fully animated feature. It is the product of the last seven years' labor, the last five full time upon it. I call it "Sophie's Place", because it evolved from and revolves around the mosque (both interior and exterior) of Saint Sophia in Constantinople. Essentially it is an autobiography in animated form (as once suggested by Stan Brakhage many years ago), but a spiritual one, an 'alchemical' one.

It is interesting in that the film took place in a timeless working atmosphere, where no limits or restrictions were ever placed on how long it took to complete an idea or a sequence. No pre-plans were made; it all took place under the camera -- that is, it is the reality of what happened there, not a 're-enactment'. The entire film is unedited, possibly the longest 'in-camera' film ever made. (Also possibly the first totally experimental animated feature-length film (90 minutes or above) ever made.) At any rate, the continuity is more flowing and complete than any animation I've ever done."

-- from a letter from the filmmaker to Howard
Guttenplan -- Millenium Workshop: January 26, 1987.

About the filmmaker:

Larry Jordan, born in Denver, came to film through his association with his contemporary, Stan Brakhage. Jordan's earliest films were modelled after Brakhage's early "psychodramas." After making "diary" films of his family, Jordan began animating those expert collage films for which he is presently celebrated. He also completed the feature-length OLD HOUSE PASSING and HILDUR AND THE MAGICIAN, atmospheric acted narratives that confirm the artist's interest in the supernatural.

Filmography: (Jordan completed a number of films which have not been presented publicly. The following is a list of titles Jordan has made available through the Canyon Cinema Cooperative in San Francisco) THE ONE ROMANTIC ADVENTURE OF EDWARD (1956), VISIONS OF A CITY (1957/1978), TRIPTYCH IN FOUR PARTS (1958), DUO CONCERTANTES (1964), GYMNOPEDIES (1965), HAMFAT ASAR (1965), BIG SUR: THE LADIES (1966), THE OLD HOUSE, PASSING (1967), HILDUR AND THE MAGICIAN (1969), OUR LADY OF THE SPHERE (1969), THE SACRED ART OF TIBET (1972), ORB (1973), ONCE UPON A TIME (1974), THE APPARITION (1976), CUT-OUT ANIMATION: LARRY JORDAN (1977), ANCESTORS (1978), CORNELL, 1965 (1978), MOONLIGHT SONATA (1979), CARABOSSE (1980), FINDS OF THE FORTENIGHT (1980), MASQUERADE (1981), ADAGIO (1983), IN A SUMMER GARDEN (1983), MAGENTA GERYON (1983), WINTER LIGHT (1983).

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