



STATEN ISLAND INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Staten Island Museum
High Rock Park Conservation Center
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--- PRESS RELEASE ---

ANIMATOR LARRY JORDAN TO SHOW AND DISCUSS HIS SOPHIE'S PLACE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT MUSEUM

West coast film-maker Larry Jordan will be showing his new film, the feature-length Sophie's Place, at the Museum of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences on Sunday, November 8, at 1:30 p.m. The Museum is located at 75 Stuyvesant Place in St. George; admission is \$2 for the public and \$1 for members.

Jordan will be at the museum to discuss the film with the audience, which saw a program of his shorter films at the museum on November 1, and last year saw his Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

Speaking about Sophie's Place, which is a full-color pilgrimage into the steel engravings that dominated 19th century illustration and are the raw material for all of Jordan's animated films, the film-maker recently said:

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 ... but a spiritual one, an 'alchemical' one. It is interesting 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 sequence.

The film was made "in sequence;" that is, we see the images in the order that Jordan shot and animated them. Editing took place in Jordan's mind during the filming, so that these dream-like images not only look like flights of the imagination, but they are ordered in time like dreams, have the logic of dreams.

Jordan's approach to animation is highly personal; his films do not much resemble commercial cartoons. Rather, they look like collage pieces by Max Ernst or Joseph Cornell; both of these surrealist artists were major influences on Jordan. He even worked with Cornell for some years in the 1960s.

The program is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, Film/Video Arts, and Island Cinema Resources. Programs at the Institute are supported in part by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of New York. For more information call Robert Haller at 718-727-1135.