

Film can borrow from all arts

Walt Disney scored major breakthrough in 1940 film

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STROUDSBURG — As an art form, film is unique in its capacity for incorporating elements from other art forms.

To projected photography have been added the dimensions of motion, sound, graphic art, drama, and frequently music and dance.

"Underground" film makers have begun to realize further dimensions which can be projected on film. Some film artists paint and scratch designs directly on film to evolve a new kind of moving art.

One journalist has noted three directions in the experiments of contemporary film makers. He writes that they are all forms of departure from the narrative or dramatic form "which has dominated the major body of cinema since the early 1900s:

"That of the realists who pursue an unvarnished view of life; and in contrast the work of artists who have carried abstraction into film-making; and those who see expression in the subjective film."

A group of film makers known as undergrounders have banded together as The Film-Makers Cooperative. Andy Warhol is well-known in this circle, as is Bruce Conners.

Conners has been said to approach film from his experiences in assemblage as a collage-maker and sculptor.

His films are highly personal, combining clips from newsreels, documentaries, and magazines with footage of his own. Conners uses recorded music and news broadcasts as sound tracks to create films of imaginative and satiric force.

Another member of the Cooperative, Stan Vanderbeck, manipulates live action shots with clippings from newspapers, advertisements, and other mass media.

Vanderbeck's stated purpose in experimentation is to find "a broader alphabet of film form."

Ed Emshwiller, like Vanderbeck, is a Ford Foundation grant recipient. His films, too, are non-narrative and communicate purely in visual terms.

His first film was an attempt to combine the broad strokes of painting in motion with the movements of a figure in space. Later he used dancers as abstract forms as well as symbols.

Emshwiller combines the arts of painting, ballet, and cinema to extend the scope of each form and create a personal form of his own.



Andy and Edie



Above ground: kitesh



Underground: despair