University of California, Berkeley

University Art Museum

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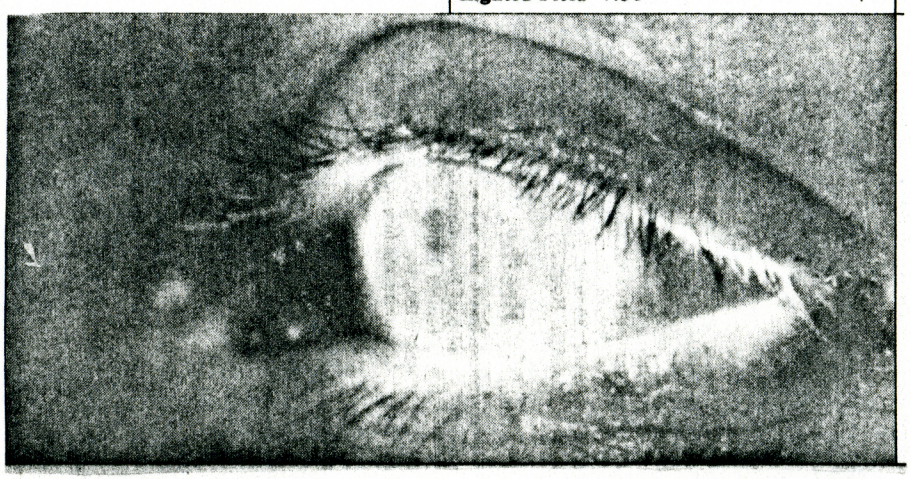
Pacific Film Archive

• *PFA*
Avant-Garde Film Today
A New Film by Andrew Noren:
Lighted Field 7:30



• Tuesday October 27

Avant-Garde Film Today: A New Film by Andrew Noren

Lighted Field 7:30

"I work only with the elements around me, the forms and substances of my daily existence, invention rooted in what is there.... The Lovers, light and shadow, and their offspring, space and time, are my themes; working with their particularities is my passion and delight.... I'm a light thief and shadow bandit, I deal in retinal phantoms...." (Andrew Noren).

Thus has Noren described his major opus, *The Adventures of the Exquisite Corpse*, an open-ended work (of which *Lighted Field* is Part V) which established the filmmaker as a sublime sensualist, romantic poet, celebrator of textures, surfaces, colors and forms as revealed and transformed by light and shadow. In *Lighted Field* Noren continues this obsession; his passion for the movement of light and shadow—on objects, bodies, across landscapes, on sidewalks, walls and windows, on the textures of cat fur, table glass and gossamer curtains—pulsates to the rhythm of his pixillated, single-framed glimpses of the world around him. Noren doesn't just capture light and shadow, he creates their play. His passion becomes ecstasy. "Noren films in a heat, kinetically...there is an imperative about the moment and it is immediately felt" (Larry Kardish, The Museum of Modern Art).*

Noren's virtuoso camerawork has been described as a kind of sorcery; his images are manipulated, animated and composed completely within his Bolex. In fact, the shadow of filmmaker and Bolex is a repeated motif throughout *Lighted Field*—a conscious homage to Vertov and *The Man with a Movie Camera?* There appear to be other homages, to the film artists of the twenties—Hans Richter, Man Ray, René Clair, Eisenstein. Noren even introduces stock footage, another component of his world (he is employed by a film library), with conscious reference to the filmmaking process, and this material too comes under his "magicianship."* *Lighted Field* is not an abstract film, although there is no chronological ordering of sequences or narrative progression. Rather, as Noren says,* "an affinity of light, movement, form, gesture" provides the linkage, the "flexible rhyme"* of his play of light and shadow, which is indeed often playful. – Edith Kramer

*quotations from Larry Kardish "Of Light and Texture," a Museum of Modern Art publication

• A film by Andrew Noren (1987, 70 mins, Print from filmmaker)