

THE ART OF VISION: A STAN BRAKHAGE RETROSPECTIVE

March 9 – 31, 1991

Stan Brakhage, one of the most influential and prolific artists in the history of American cinema, will be the subject of **"The Art of Vision: A Stan Brakhage Retrospective,"** at the American Museum of the Moving Image from March 9 to 31, 1991. This will be the most extensive survey of Brakhage's work since a complete retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in 1971. Brakhage will appear at four programs on the opening weekend, March 9 and 10, to discuss his earlier work and present several new films, including the world premiere of **Passage Through: A Ritual.**

During the four-week retrospective, 80 films will be screened, selected from more than 200 films made by Brakhage since 1952. In addition to the screenings, there will be two illustrated lectures, by noted Brakhage scholars Fred Camper ("Cezanne, Brakhage, and 'Personal' Art," on Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m.) and Marjorie Keller ("Editing Consciousness: Brakhage as a Filmmaker's Filmmaker," on Sunday, March 24, at 2:00 p.m.).

Brakhage's films have astonishing variety, ranging from psychodrama and hand-painted animation to diaristic study, abstract collage, and epic lyricism. His singular achievement is his consistent discovery of new ways to use film to express a modernist worldview, in which the relationship between subject and "reality" is fractured, dynamic, and always in flux. Brakhage achieves these new forms of visual expression by reinventing the medium, which he sees as primarily visual. By shattering all conventions of composition, placement, exposure, and focus, Brakhage has used countless devices to break free from the mechanically determined classicism of the filmed image. As Brakhage once wrote of his artistic ambitions:

"Imagine an eye unruled by man-made laws of perspective, an eye unprejudiced by compositional logic, an eye which does not respond to the name of everything but which must know each object encountered in life through an adventure of perception. How many colors are there in a field of grass to the crawling baby unaware of 'Green?'"

"The Art of Vision: A Stan Brakhage Retrospective," has been organized by David Schwartz, Curator of Film. Brakhage's films are available for screening, and Brakhage is available for telephone interviews. Contact the Department of Public Information at 718-784-4420 if you are interested.