

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSE FILM AND TELEVISION
AND THE
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FILMS ON ART (FIFA)
IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM, THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY,
AND THE CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

PRESENT

ART ON SCREEN

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 27TH MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FILMS ON ART (FIFA)
FEBRUARY 2010

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New York, NY – During the month of February 2010, MUSE Film and Television will launch its fourth annual New York presentation of selections from the 27th annual Montreal International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA), in collaboration with three prestigious New York institutions: The Morgan Library & Museum, The New York Public Library Mid-Manhattan Branch, and a new partner this year, The Center for Architecture.

The FIFA is the only North American festival devoted exclusively to all of the arts. In 2009 the FIFA presented 270 productions from 35 countries. An international jury awarded prizes to an outstanding group of films/videos, which New Yorkers will have the opportunity to view in February. With nine days of vibrant films presented across three Manhattan venues, ART ON SCREEN: FIFA IN NYC will enliven the grey days of winter.

At the New York Public Library Mid-Manhattan Branch – Each Sunday in February

On Sundays at 2:00 PM, the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library will present films on literature, sculpture, photography, painting, and dance. **Zora Neale Hurston: *Jump at the Sun*** (Feb. 7), directed by Sam Pollard, profiles the writer who was one of the most important and controversial figures of the Harlem Renaissance. In **Anthony Caro: *Sculpture as Religion*** (Feb. 14), director Alain Fleischer follows the renowned British sculptor as he creates a monumental installation for a French gothic church. On February 21, two celebrated Canadian artists are featured: **Karsh *Is History***, directed by Joseph Hillel, traces the career of Armenian-born photographer Yousof Karsh, whose portraits of 20th-century celebrities are known worldwide, and **Colville**, directed by Andreas Schultz, offers an intimate portrait of painter Alex Colville, Canada's most famous living artist. Two dance films wrap up the month-long series on February 28: In **Nora**, Zimbabwean dancer and choreographer Nora Chipaumire creates a vibrant narrative poem of music, movement, and images, directed by Alla Kovgan and David Hinton; and in **Light, No Light**, director Ludovica Riccardi follows the creative process of choreographer Pierre Droulers as he develops a new work.

Special Event at The Morgan Library & Museum – February 17

Preceding a weekend of screenings at the Morgan, an opening reception and screening will take place on Wednesday, February 17. The featured film will be **Death in Venice: A Musical Journey with Louis Lortie**, in which the Montreal-born piano virtuoso shares his passion for the city of Venice and the music and art it has inspired. Film director Mathieu Roy will introduce the film. (*Limited tickets available for this special event.*)

At The Morgan Library & Museum – February 19-20

The Morgan will host a weekend of selections on art, music, and poetry, February 19 and 20. Friday evening opens with **Solo**, where director Maciej Pisarek takes us on a journey with one of Poland's most important artists: composer, playwright, and author Boguslaw Schaeffer (b. 1929). Next, in **Boris Ryzhy**, director Aliona van der Horst investigates the tragic life of the Russian poet (1974-2001) who embodied the hidden drama of the perestroika generation.

Art takes center stage at the Morgan on Saturday, February 20, beginning with a lively look at the life and work of sculptor Alexander Calder in **Calder: Sculptor of Air**, directed by François Lévy-Kuentz. Then, director Tessa Boerman's **Painted Black** offers a thoughtful examination of the depiction of people of African origin in Dutch and Flemish paintings from the late Middle Ages to the present. The weekend at the Morgan wraps up with **Bending Space: Georges Rousse and the Durham Project**, directed by Kenny Dalsheimer and Penelope Maunsell, which documents a public art project in Durham, North Carolina, where the French sculptor, painter, and photographer spent a month transforming four historical buildings into pictorial spaces with the aid of 200 volunteers. *(The filmmakers are expected to attend—to be confirmed.)*

At The Center for Architecture – February 26-27

On February 26 and 27, The Center for Architecture will host a series of international productions on architecture, selected from the 2009 FIFA. On Friday afternoon, Center director Rick Bell will introduce two films about mid-century private villas that explore architect-client relations: **El Cerrito**, directed by Juan Andrés Bello, focuses on the Villa Planchart in Caracas, Venezuela, designed by Italian architect Gio Ponti for Armando and Anala Planchart in the 1950s; and in **Villa Mairea**, director Rax Rinnekangas traces the history of this famous Finnish villa designed by Alvar Aalto for Maire and Harry Gullichsen and built on the eve of World War II.

Following a reception from 5:30-6:30, the Friday evening program will feature **The Oslo Opera House**, designed by the firm of Snøhetta, in which director Anne Elisabeth Andersen chronicles Norway's biggest cultural construction project from inception to its opening in 2008. Craig Dykers, co-founder of Snøhetta, will introduce the film (to be confirmed). It will be preceded by the short, **City of Cranes**, by Eva Weber.

Saturday afternoon opens with a humorous and insightful look at the world of shopping malls, **Malls R Us**, by Canadian director Helene Kladowsky. MUSE's ART ON SCREEN series concludes with **Infinite Space: The Architecture of John Lautner**, directed by Murray Grigor, which explores the uniquely original buildings designed by the California architect. *Both filmmakers are expected to attend—to be confirmed.*

Sponsoring Organizations:

MUSE Film and Television is a leading nonprofit company dedicated to creating films on art and culture. Founded in 1992, MUSE's mission is based on the belief that film is one of the most important ways to appreciate and understand art. Many MUSE productions have been included in the FIFA over the years. For more information about MUSE: www.musefilm.org.

The **Montreal FIFA** has earned international acclaim as the premiere film festival for the arts. Taking place over ten days in March 2009, the 27th FIFA attracted more than 35,000 visitors. Following the Montreal showings, the award-winning festival entries tour to other cities in Canada and abroad. The 28th FIFA will take place March 18-28, 2010. For more information: www.artfifa.com.

THE ART ON SCREEN: FIFA IN NEW YORK SERIES IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH A GRANT FROM THE PIERRE AND TANA MATISSE FOUNDATION, AND THE SUPPORT OF THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK, ARTV [CANADA], CITYARTS, AND RUDER FINN, INC./RUDER FINN PRINT.

Partner Institutions:

The Morgan Library & Museum, a complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today the Morgan is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. More than a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century. For more information: www.themorgan.org.

The New York Public Library's Reserve Film and Video Collection is the central circulating film and video collection, with holdings of 6,000 16mm films, 5,000 VHS cassettes, and 2,000 DVDs. The collection is renowned for the depth of its independent film and video holdings. Now a division of The Library for the Performing Arts (LPA), the Reserve Film and Video Collection highlights its holdings through regular screening series, and also houses a Film/Video Study Center with carrels for private viewing. For more information: www.nypl.org/research/lpa/circ/film_video.html.

The Mid-Manhattan Library's Circulating Art Collection contains about 40,000 circulating volumes and 25 circulating periodicals of popular titles. Critical, historical, and biographical works on all aspects of the visual arts are included, as well as a large collection of technique and how-to books on arts, crafts, fashion, design, and photography. The Art Collection also hosts a small exhibition program showcasing contemporary artists whose work relates to the collection. For more information: www.nypl.org/branch/central/mml/art/

The Center for Architecture is a hub for all interested in the built environment. The Center's mission is to: provide a center of learning for the public and building industry professionals in order to improve the quality of the built environment; explore cutting-edge topics, technological innovations, and other issues concerning the built environment; foster an exchange and collaboration among members of the design, construction, and real estate community; promote an appreciation of New York's unique urban fabric; inspire community values and provide fellowship opportunities; and promote cultural tourism of New York City's architecture. The Center is operated by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which is the oldest and largest AIA chapter in the country, with more than 4,600 practicing architects, allied professionals, students, and community members. For more information: www.aiany.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

FIFA OPENING EVENT AT THE MORGAN (By Invitation)*

Presented with the support of ARTV**

6:00 – 9:00PM Reception followed by screening of:

Death in Venice: A Musical Journey with Louis Lortie (75 min., 2009)
Director: Mathieu Roy (Canada)

Montreal-born piano virtuoso Louis Lortie (b. 1959) shares his passion and fascination for the mythical city of Venice and the music and art it has inspired. *The filmmaker will be present. Winner of the 2009 FIFA Audience Award*

*A limited number of tickets (\$25) will be available after February 12. Contact: www.themorgan.org

**ARTV is a Canadian French-language TV network devoted to arts and culture



Screening schedules, with photos, are on the following pages:

MID-MANHATTAN LIBRARY

The New York Public Library
40th Street and 5th Avenue
On the 6th Floor

February 7 2:00 PM

Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun (90 min., 2008)

Director: Sam Pollard; Producer/Writer: Kristy Andersen (USA)

Writer Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was the first black anthropologist in the U.S. She became one of the most illustrious and controversial figures of the 1920s Harlem Renaissance.

Award for Best Educational Film, sponsored by the Ministère des Affaires Municipales et des Régions



February 14 2:00 PM

Anthony Caro: Sculpture as Religion (90 min., 2008)

Director: Alain Fleischer (France)

British sculptor Anthony Caro (b. 1924) has created a monumental installation for the Gothic choir of the Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste at Bourbourg, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

Award for Best Film for Television, sponsored by Digital Cut



February 21 2:00 PM

Karsh Is History (52 min., 2009)

Director: Joseph Hillel (Canada)

A reflection, in images and music, on the work of Armenian-born Canadian photographer Yousof Karsh (1908-2002), whose widely recognized portraits captured the essence of 20th-century celebrity.

Award for Best Canadian Work



Colville (67 min., 2008)

Director: Andreas Schultz (Germany)

Canadian painter Alex Colville's (b. 1920) intimate, unsettling canvases reflect his 60-year relationship with his wife, Rhoda. The most famous living Canadian artist, he chooses his subjects from his immediate environment in a Maritime province.



February 28 2:00 PM

Nora (35 min., 2008)

Directors: David Hinton and Alla Kovgan (USA, U.K., Mozambique)

Dancer and choreographer Nora Chipaumire revisits her childhood in Zimbabwe in this vibrant narrative poem of movement, music, and images. With music by legendary Zimbabwean musician Thomas Mapfumo. *Award for Creativity, sponsored by the National Film Board of Canada*



Light, No Light (45 min., 2008)

Director: Ludovica Riccardi (Belgium)

A poetic essay that explores the creative process of choreographer Pierre Droulers as he develops his piece *Inoui*.

Award for Best Essay, sponsored by Vision Globale



For more information, contact: David Callahan, 212-870-1792, dcallahan@nypl.org

*All programs are FREE and subject to last minute change or cancellation.
Elevators access the 6th floor after 1:30 p.m.*

THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

6:30 PM

Solo (55 min., 2008)

Director: Maciej Pisarek (Poland)

A journey in the company of composer, playwright, and author Boguslaw Schaeffer (b. 1929), one of Poland's most important artists. *Winner of FIFA Grand Prize, sponsored by PriceWaterhouseCoopers.*



8:00 PM

Boris Ryzhy (59 min., 2008)

Director: Aliona van der Horst (Netherlands)

An investigation into the tragic life of Russian poet Boris Ryzhy (1974-2001), who embodied the hidden drama of the entire perestroika generation. *FIFA Jury Prize, sponsored by Robichaud Conseil.*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

1:00 PM

Calder, Sculptor of Air (52 min., 2008)

Director: François Lévy-Kuentz

The work of American sculptor Alexander Calder (1898-1976), one of the most revolutionary and popular artists of his day, remains undeniably modern. Rare archival footage and interviews highlight the innovative nature of his work.



2:30 PM

Painted Black (52 min., 2008)

Director: Tessa Boerman (Netherlands)

Examines the representation of people of African origin in the paintings of Dutch and Flemish masters, focusing on the seventeenth century.



4:00 PM

Bending Space: Georges Rouse and the Durham Project (56 min., 2007)

Directors: Kenny Dalsheimer and Penelope Maunsell (USA)

French sculptor, painter, and photographer Georges Rouse (b. 1947) spent a month in Durham, NC, where he transformed four historical buildings into pictorial spaces, with the aid of more than 200 volunteers. *The filmmakers will be present (to be confirmed).*



*Tickets are free with museum admission (\$12 Adults; \$8 seniors, children, students).
Call 212-685-0008 ext. 560 or visit www.themorgan.org*

The Center for Architecture
536 LaGuardia Place
(between Bleecker and West 3rd)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

3:00 PM Two mid-century villas. Introduced by Rick Bell, FAIA

El Cerrito (57 min., 2006)

Director: Juan Andrés Bello (Venezuela)

The Villa Planchart in Caracas, Venezuela, was designed by Italian architect Gio Ponti in the 1950s for Armando and Anala Planchart.



Villa Mairea (50 min., 2009)

Director: Rax Rinnekangas (Finland)

Alvar Aalto designed this iconic villa for Maire and Harry Gullichsen. It was built in Noormarkku, Finland, on the eve of World War II.



5:30 – 6:30 Reception

6:30 PM The Oslo Opera House. Introduced by Craig Dykers, co-founder Snøhetta

City of Cranes (14 min., 2007)

Director: Eva Weber (U.K.)

A poetic view of London's changing landscape through the eyes and comments of crane operators.



The Oslo Opera House (59 min., 2008)

Director: Anne Elisabeth Andersen (Norway)

Chronicles Norway's biggest cultural construction project over a five-year period. Designed by the Norwegian firm Snøhetta, the opera house opened in 2008. *Award for Best Reportage*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

1:00 PM

Malls R Us (78 min., 2008)

Director: Helene Klodawsky (Canada)

The world of malls as reflections of our lifestyle, examining their history, their architectural choices, their social, cultural, and political dimensions. *The filmmaker will be present (to be confirmed).*



3:30 PM

Infinite Space: The Architecture of John Lautner (90 min., 2008)

Director: Murray Grigor (Scotland and USA)

"The purpose of architecture," said John Lautner (1911-1994), "is to create timeless, free, joyous spaces for all of life's activities."

The filmmaker will be present (to be confirmed).



For information, contact: Sara Romanoski, 212-358-6111, sromanowski.org

Programs are free and open to the public.