

JANUARY - MAY 2007

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A  
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CINEMA  
SINCE  
1970

# FILM FORUM

PREMIERES

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KAREN COOPER AND MIKE MAGGIORE

KIKI SMITH

AGNES MARTIN

JANUARY 10 - 23  
2 WEEKS

## Kiki Smith Squatting the Palace

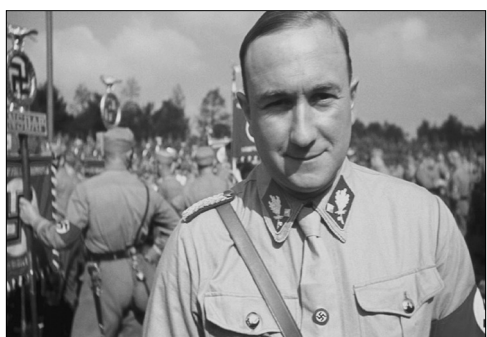
DIRECTED BY VIVIAN BITTENCOURT & VINCENT KATZ  
PRODUCED BY EDGAR HOWARD &  
THE CHECKERBOARD FOUNDATION  
USA 2006 45 MINS.

## Agnes Martin With My Back to the World

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY MARY LANCE  
USA 2002 57 MINS.

**TWO CANDID PORTRAITS OF BRILLIANT ARTISTS AT WORK:** women who could not be more different, but who share a daunting passion for their work. The reclusive Agnes Martin (1912–2004) allowed herself to be filmed at her New Mexico studio, producing one glorious canvas after another and reminiscing about life in NYC in the '50s when lofts rented for \$45/month. The vibrant Kiki Smith is captured in her Lower East Side home as she fashions sculptures, drawings, prints and furniture for an 8-room installation intended for a Renaissance palace in Venice.

**KIKI SMITH: A GATHERING, 1980–2005 IS ON VIEW AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART THROUGH FEBRUARY 11.** AGNES MARTIN AND KIKI SMITH ARE REPRESENTED BY PACEWILDENSTEIN.  
1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10



2 OR 3 THINGS I KNOW ABOUT HIM

JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 6  
2 WEEKS

## 2 or 3 Things I Know About Him

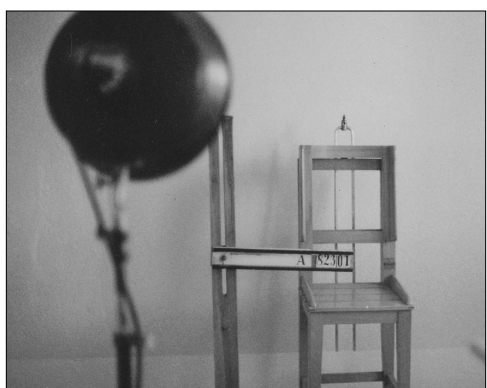
DIRECTED BY MALTE LUDIN  
GERMANY 2005 89 MINS. IN GERMAN & SLOVAK WITH  
ENGLISH SUBTITLES THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR JEWISH FILM

## Torte Bluma

DIRECTED BY BENJAMIN ROSS  
USA 2005 18 MINS. IN ENGLISH

**WHAT WOULD YOUR FAMILY REMINISCENCES ABOUT DAD SOUND LIKE IF HE HAD BEEN AN EARLY SUPPORTER OF HITLER'S,** a leader of the notorious SA and the Third Reich's minister in charge of Slovakia, including its Final Solution? Executed as a war criminal in 1947, Hanns Ludin left behind a grieving widow and six young children, the youngest of whom became a filmmaker. It's a fascinating, maddening, sometimes even humorous look at what the director calls "a typical German story." TORTE BLUMA stars Stellan Skarsgård as a Nazi camp commandant and Simon McBurney as his prisoner/pastry chef.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE JOAN S. CONSTANTINER FUND  
FOR JEWISH AND HOLOCAUST FILM  
1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10



THE DECOMPOSITION OF THE SOUL

© MASSIMO IANNETTA

FEBRUARY 7 - 13  
1 WEEK

## The Decomposition of the Soul

DIRECTED BY  
NINA TOUSSAINT & MASSIMO IANNETTA  
BELGIUM 2003 82 MINS. IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**THE EAST GERMAN SECRET POLICE, THE STASI,** had 91,000 full-time employees and 300,000 informants (one in 50 citizens were collaborators). As the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, panicking Stasi attempted to destroy millions of pages of documents. However, they couldn't destroy the recollections of their victims. THE DECOMPOSITION OF THE SOUL records the experiences of two former prisoners, each of whom describes in amazing detail the intricacies of their tormentors' techniques. The world according to Orwell and Kafka.

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

FEBRUARY 14 - 27  
2 WEEKS

## Bamako

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO  
MALI / FRANCE 2006 118 MINS. IN FRENCH & BAMBARA  
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES NEW YORKER FILMS

**"THE MOST POLITICALLY URGENT FILM IN THE (2006) NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL** and also the most formally audacious, combines a bracing indictment of the world financial system with a subtle glimpse at daily life in Africa. At the center of this film from Mali is a mock trial, during which robed lawyers argue over whether the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are guilty of increasing Africa's misery. But around the edges, as passionate speeches are made, we witness a wedding, the breakup of a marriage and the routines of work and play. The juxtaposition of the abstract and concrete, of macrocosm and microcosm, makes BAMAKO much more than the sum of its arguments. It's a film that needs to be seen, argued over, and seen again." — A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

EXEC. PRODUCER DANNY GLOVER IN PERSON WED FEB 14, 7:20  
1:30, 4, 7:20, 9:40

BAMAKO

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 13  
2 WEEKS

## Into Great Silence

PRODUCED, DIRECTED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
PHILIP GRÖNING  
GERMANY 2006 162 MINS.  
IN FRENCH & LATIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

**"A GERMAN DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ROMAN CATHOLIC MONKS WHO BARELY UTTER A WORD,** INTO GREAT SILENCE runs 162 minutes — 162 engrossing, entrancing, enlivening minutes... Philip Gröning brings us inside a world as mysterious and often as silent as the dark side of the moon, a charterhouse of Carthusian monks in the French Alps. Founded in the 12th century, the Carthusians are among the most rigorous of all Catholic orders... In an overwhelmingly noisy world, the Carthusians seek God in solitude; all things considered, including the inevitable tranquility and focus of their lives, you soon understand why... Through unrushed rhythms and a harmonious mise-en-scene, Mr. Gröning finds beauty in a mote of dust, a patch of newly tilled earth and the long white eyebrows that hang over an aged blind monk's eyes like a curtain. Grace, it seems, makes little noise." — Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*

1:15, 5:30, 8:30



INTO GREAT SILENCE

MARCH 14 - 27  
2 WEEKS

## Blockade

DIRECTED BY SERGEI LOZNITSA  
RUSSIA 2005 52 MINS. IN ENGLISH

## Amateur Photographer

DIRECTED BY IRINA GEDROVICH  
RUSSIA 2004 26 MINS. IN ENGLISH

THE PROGRAM IS A FIRST RUN / ICARUS FILMS RELEASE.

**THE SIEGE OF LENINGRAD DURING WWII LASTED 900 DAYS,** leaving more than 600,000 dead from starvation, bombs, disease or cold. BLOCKADE, a compilation film based on silent footage found in Moscow's archives (to which the filmmaker has added reconstructed sound), is an extraordinary account of life and death in a great city experiencing unprecedented hardship. As the Russian winter takes hold and snow falls relentlessly, people forage for food and step over shrouded corpses left lying in the streets. Beautiful statuary, bridges, palaces and ornate lampposts are the background for coffins being pulled on sleds along frozen walkways. AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER compiles the recollections of a German private serving on the Eastern front, based on his diaries and photographs.

1, 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10



BLOCKADE



U-CARMEN

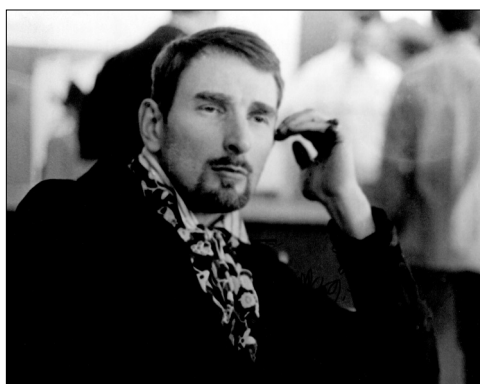
MARCH 28 - APRIL 10  
2 WEEKS

## U-Carmen

DIRECTED BY MARK DORNFORD-MAY  
SOUTH AFRICA 2005 120 MINS.  
IN XHOSA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KOCH LORBER FILMS

**CARMEN, PERHAPS THE WORLD'S BEST-LOVED OPERA, WITH ITS STORY OF LOVE, JEALOUSY, REVENGE AND MADNESS,** is set in a sprawling South African shantytown, and sung in Xhosa! George Bizet's 19th century spectacle is re-imagined in a naturalistic world of pool halls, bars, courtyards and barracks. The seductive, boisterous Carmen (who works in a cigarette factory), is sung with tremendous charisma by Pauline Malefane. When she sets her sights on a Bible-reading policeman, he doesn't stand a chance. Rarely has an opera been made more modern, relevant or vibrant than in this stunning interpretation, featuring Dimpho Di Kopane (DDK), the internationally acclaimed South African theater company.

1, 3:30, 6, 8:30



JACK SMITH AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ATLANTIS

COURTESY OF AND © MIKE SULLIVAN

APRIL 11 - 24  
2 WEEKS

## Jack Smith

### and the Destruction of Atlantis

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MARY JORDAN  
PRODUCED BY  
KENNETH WAYNE PERALTA & MARY JORDAN

USA 2006 96 MINS.

**FOR JACK SMITH (1932-1989), ATLANTIS WAS BOTH THE IDEA OF A FANTASTICAL UTOPIA** and the reality of the Lower East Side apartment in which this prophetic artist staged baroque, improvisational multi-hour one-man theatrical productions, often with a cast of stuffed animals and dolls. An avant-garde photographer, filmmaker, actor, performance artist, and all around "flaming creature," Smith has been credited as a major influence by Fellini, Godard and Jarmusch. In Mary Jordan's mesmerizing portrait, he fairly jumps off the screen: a combination mystic, comedian and madman, a protean artist whose vast energy and creativity were undermined (or perversely fed?) by the poverty of his day-to-day life and his paranoid misgivings about just about everything. If there is a heaven for the wonderfully bizarre, Jack Smith resides there, accompanied by his patron saint, Maria Montez.

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10



TRIAD ELECTION

APRIL 25 - MAY 8  
2 WEEKS

## Triad Election

DIRECTED BY JOHNNIE TO  
HONG KONG / CHINA 2006 93 MINS. IN CHINESE WITH  
ENGLISH SUBTITLES TARTAN FILMS

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN CHINESE-LANGUAGE CINEMA** — that's what critics call Johnnie To, the Hong Kong director who has reinvented the gangster genre for the 21st century. Overeducated racketeer Jimmy (pop star Louis Koo) only wants to go legit, but in Michael Corleone fashion, his past haunts his future. He's running for Chairman of HK's oldest, most fearsome *triad* (criminal organization) and is the favored candidate of the mainland Chinese who align themselves with stability and affluence for Hong Kong, whatever the cost. The filmmaker brings a subtle, classical sheen to even the movie's most outrageous scenes — as when Jimmy's opponents find themselves, literally, going to the dogs.

1, 3:30, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45

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