

Ray Rice Films

Special Collections and Archives

The University Library

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University Library

University of California, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, California, 95064

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Ray Rice Films

Collection number: MS 180

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

Processed by:
Special Collections and Archives

Date Completed:
Winter 2006

Encoded by:
UCSC OAC Unit

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Ray Rice films

Bulk Dates: 1965-1979

Collection number: MS 180

Creator: Rice, Ray

Collection Size: 36 films

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: This collection consists of short animated films created and produced by Ray Rice from 1965-1979.

Physical location: Archival copies stored offsite at NRLF.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research. Public copies have been cataloged separately and are available at the Film and Music Center. Please see the Library's online catalog for call numbers.

The Archival DVDs stored at NRLF are RESTRICTED.

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Preferred Citation

Ray Rice films. MS 180. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Rice Family.

Biography

Born April 24, 1916 in Elkhart, Indiana. Studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, Art Students League of New York, Claremont Graduate School, New School for Social Research.

Ray Rice spent over fifty years on the modern American art scene as painter, mosaicist and animator of experimental films. Rice moved early from Chicago to New York during the WPA period and then to California. In 1961 he helped found the Art Center in Mendocino.

Between 1965 and 1983, Ray Rice explored the projection of painting and drawing with sound and poetry in film. Working as an individual, he produced over thirty animated films from three to twenty minutes in length. His films first emerged into the underground scene of the 1960s and have since been shown at universities, major art institutions, theaters and on television throughout the country.

"I have been a working artist all of my adult life, interrupted only by service as an officer of black troops during World War II. After the war I worked with architects on a large scale making mosaic murals and sculpture. During the 1960's my

attention shifted to working independently and on a small scale making pictures that move. My records show approximately 45 16mm films with optical sound, usually in color and using acetate ink on acetate. The films range in length from 2-14 minutes. There was a continuous market for my experimental films on a national circuit of after-hours venues, and I lectured and showed in the United States and Canada through the 1970s. Even though there were still commercial opportunities, I decided not to go that way when the market change affected outlets and my equipment needed refurbishing. My work has now gone to pen and ink drawings and painting, for some reason, on hanging wood strips. Over the years I have also written articles, published poetry under several names, and illustrated a number of fine press books. I am no longer doing film, but there are good pictures there. In 1996 the town of Mendocino kindly celebrated my 80th birthday with a birthday party, one-man show for six weeks and two film showings. These activities ignited interest among young adults in these experimental art films from the sixties and seventies."

"Some of these little films may be likened to an extension of visual free association; others have had some sort of concept laid out in advance. Both depend greatly on the element of spontaneity and all steps in the making are left open for improvisation." - Ray Rice

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection consists of 36 short animated films created and produced by Ray Rice from 1965-1979.

Public copies have been created and cataloged separately. These are available at the Film and Music Center. Please see the Library's online catalog for call numbers.

The Archival DVDs are RESTRICTED.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Rice, Ray--Archives

Animated films

Experimental films

Cinematography, Abstract

Short films

Rice, Ray

box 1:1

4 Short Scenes with titles 1975

Scope and Content Note

4 min. - B/W, optical sound

box 1:2

7 for a Magician 1983

Scope and Content Note

11 min. - Color, optical sound

Based on the poem of that name by William Pitt Root. Here magic seems to result from artifice, industry and fantasy. Mr. Root reads the poem.

AWARD: San Francisco Poetry Film Festival 1967-68

box 1:3

After the Old Mill at Caspar 1973

Scope and Content Note

11 min. - Color (colored ink on acetate and outdoor photography), optical sound.

Memories of a Lincoln Brigade veteran, his life and death, are somehow found at an old mill site on an October afternoon.

box 1:4

Bayeaux Tapestry Undated

Scope and Content Note

3 min. - B/W, optical print

Condensed account of the Norman Invasion in 1066 taken from the Bayeaux Tapestry.

- box 1:5 **Can & Country 1972**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, silent
- box 1:6 **The Coast [and] The Woods 1972**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, optical sound
- box 1:7 **Faces 1972**
 Scope and Content Note
 3 min. - Color, optical sound
 Impressions of a variety of human faces
- box 1:8 **Hello 1969**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - B/W, optical sound
 All beings and things say "hello" except a black woman who just looks down. Pencil and ink on acetate.
- box 1:9 **Help 1976**
 Scope and Content Note
 5 min. - Color, optical sound
 A 'pre-film' outlining some means and methods in preparation for a longer film about the Bayeaux Tapestry.
- box 1:10 **In a Box 1971**
 Scope and Content Note
 5 min. - Color, optical sound
 If evolution and feeling seem to put a man 'in a box', the cessation of activity puts him there surely.
- box 1:11 **Lead Kindly Light 1968**
 Scope and Content Note
 8 min. - Color, optical sound
 This ironic film explores the unfulfilled promises of religion and society.
- box 1:12 **Little White Waiting 1976**
 Scope and Content Note
 8 min. - Color, optical sound
 The young await the passage of the previous generation.
- box 1:13 **Loose/Open 1968**
 Scope and Content Note
 5 min. - Color, optical sound
 The film-maker poses questions about life, age, and death in an unusual interior monologue.
- box 1:14 **Mendocino & Canmore 1974**
 Scope and Content Note
 7 min. - Color, optical sound
 Fifteen hundred miles separate the locales for this film, which seems to say that insects are very durable creatures.
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- box 1:15 **Paper Birds 1971**
 Scope and Content Note
 8 min. - Color, optical sound
 Words interjected with images suggest the futility of ideas to explain experience.
- box 1:16 **Recognition 1974**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, silent
- box 1:17 **Ribs 1969**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - B/W, silent
 Problems of sexual identity are examined in an abstract manner through a series of drawings and paintings superimposed on x-ray film.
- box 1:18 **Rough/Sleep 1975**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - B/W, optical sound
- box 1:19 **Silently 1973**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, optical sound
 Pictures of a tidal river on a gray day are accompanied by titles providing tension between scientific certainty and the random qualities of nature.
- box 1:20 **Sleep 1975**
 Scope and Content Note
 3 min. - Color - Uncompleted film - silent
- box 1:21 **Song of the Woman and Butterfly Man 1975**
 Scope and Content Note
 12 min. - Color, optical sound
 Based on the poem of that name by William Pitt Root. The poem and film enlarge a Maidu Indian story about a woman's pursuit of her destiny.
 AWARD: 1st prize San Francisco Poetry Film Festival, 1967-1968
- box 1:22 **Stars 1969**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, optical sound
 The stars come to life in this exploration of ways of prediction and knowledge: astrology, divination and rationality among them.
- box 1:23 **Stations of the Cross 1974**
 Scope and Content Note
 11 min. - Color, optical sound
 Metal sculptures by Fran Mayer are the theme of this film about the crucifixion of Christ. Sound by the Mendocino Troubadours.

- box 1:24-25 **Still Life [1968]**
 Scope and Content Note
 7 min. - #1C & 1D, Color, optical sound
 Arrangements of natural materials along with animation show the results of man's activity on earth. At the end, there is 'still life'.
- box 1:26 **Stop 1967**
 Scope and Content Note
 10 min. - Color, optical sound
 Deals with the theme of origin.
- box 1:27 **Strangers 1977**
 Scope and Content Note
 4 min. - Color, optical sound
- box 1:28 **This, That 1972**
 Scope and Content Note
 9 min. - Color, optical sound
 Four pieces of response to rural growth: Waiting, Paving, Hiding, and Facing. Drawn in color and again in black and white.
- box 1:29 **Today I Saw 1978**
 Scope and Content Note
 12 min. - Color, optical sound
 Ranging the summer countryside one sees flowers, trees, road signs, and the county dump among a profusion of images. Sound by local musicians. Early 1970s.
- box 1:30 **War & Tigers 1965**
 Scope and Content Note
 8 min. - Color, optical sound
 A roll of continuous images. One brother's awareness of his perfidy in regard to another.
- box 1:31 **Waves 1972**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, optical sound
 A study of motion.
- box 1:32 **What? 1967**
 Scope and Content Note
 3 min. - B/W, optical sound
- box 1:33 **Why Me? 1966**
 Scope and Content Note
 7 min. - B/W, optical sound
 Ruminations on technology.
- box 1:34 **Y 1968**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 min. - Color, optical sound
 Snakes, faces and various abstract forms evolve, vanish and reappear in this film based on the medieval symbol for man's ability to choose.
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box 1:35

Yes, Yes! 1966

Scope and Content Note

9 min. - #11C, B/W, optical sound

Version 2 - Film of acceptance as symbolized by a small animal nodding in approval.

box 1:36

Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes! 1966-67

Scope and Content Note

10 min. - #11D, B/W, optical sound

Version 1 - Film of acceptance as symbolized by a small animal nodding in approval.