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Thème 4

ART CRITICISM THROUGH THE FILM MEDIUM

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I believe that other rapporteurs are speaking to you of the important part which art films can play in the development of an understanding of art. If truly the film can contribute to this end, it is indeed important that such films be made, conserved, and that their distribution be facilitated. The conservation and distribution are the tasks of the International Film of Art Centre at Amsterdam. In the case of art films, the demand far exceeds the supply, at least in the case of good examples.

How can one tell the existing art films and how can one best present them ? UNESCO publishes catalogues of art films. Up to now these catalogues give merely formal details. In the future it is hoped that with the aid of The Federation of Art Films critical catalogues can be produced. For the purpose of seeing films from all parts of the world, Congresses and Festivals are extremely useful. It is not sufficient that "insiders" get to know Films on art, their need is less and their principal function is to propagate them.

One of the most difficult question is, where are we to find films if we wish to show them in public ? In order to supply the answer to this proposition, the International Center of Art Films requires the collaboration of everyone. Film-makers, producers, distributors, national centres and all those able to make financial contributions. Everyone can show films, Cinema Clubs, Schools, Universities and above all Museums.

The man in the street still regards the museum as a place to be left alone, musty and highbrow, but talk to such a person of the films and he feels quite at home. The film belongs to this period and is therefore attractive.

The presentation of a film in a museum can suddenly transform the forbidding edifice where the atmosphere seems mummified and stilted and make of it a place of familiarity.

The film can become a main attraction to the public to get to know the museum.