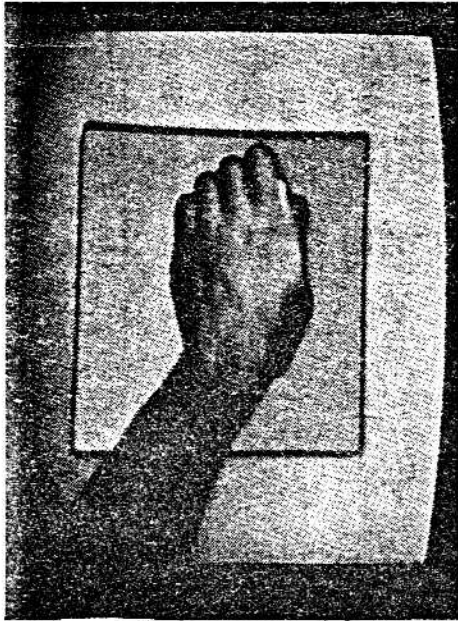


Movie Journal

Jonas Mekas

Oct. 8. Preview of Film Forum's first program of the new season. A Program of Computer and Video films. Twelve films, some new, some not that new. A variety of different techniques displayed. Almost every film has one or two good images or ideas. It's in their totalities, in their completeness that they fail and become trite. Take Stephen Beck's film, *Union*. There are in it extraordinary bits of imagery. But they are lost in a sea of nothing. There are traces of Belson and Emshwiller in it — but no totality of concept, as we find it in Belson. It ends up in nothing.

Four films stand out on the program. One is already old. Stan Vanderbeek's *Newsreel of Dreams*, which I always liked. Then there is Woody Vasulka's *No. 19*, a minimal, restrained work, maybe a self-portrait. *Video-Film* by Richard Bloes, maybe the best film on the program, is an exploration of objects (hand, piece of paper) moving in and out. And John Whitney's *Arabesque*, a beautiful work from the pioneer of computer film. ●



Video by Richard Bloes