

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 PM
ARMORY FOR THE ARTS

Oskar Fischinger Retrospective

In Person: Elfriede Fischinger



There is an integral connection between abstract animated films and music. Oftentimes, without music, a piece of animation loses its power and emotional appeal. In other cases an artist's insight, through animation, illuminates a musical selection, forever changing the way we hear that piece of music. One of the great geniuses at combining animation and music was Oskar Fischinger.

Fischinger (1900-1967) was unquestionably the father of the abstract animated film. He was an influence upon many abstract film artists, and even commercial cartoonists. Fischinger pioneered almost every technique for producing abstract images, from silhouette to stereo. He inspired composers Edgard Varese and John Cage with his early "concrete" music concepts, and collaborated with Fritz Lang and Orson Welles.

Fischinger's artistic concepts are intrinsically linked to music, from their original ideas in some cases, to his use of musical terms in the titles, such as ALLEGRETTO. The most celebrated combination of music and animation that Fischinger was involved with was Disney's FANTASIA, in which he was most instrumental in the creation of Bach's "Tocata and Fugue" sequence.

His widow, Elfriede Fischinger, will be in attendance to discuss his films, answer questions from the audience, and to introduce the extraordinary life and art of Oskar Fischinger, particularly as it relates to "Music and the Movies." Elfriede will show Oskar's earliest experimental work, the Opus from the middle of his career, and his final masterpiece, MOTION PICTURE #1. Twenty-one films and sequences will be exhibited in this retrospective not only covering a great artist's total career, but providing an entertainment spectacular of sight and sound.