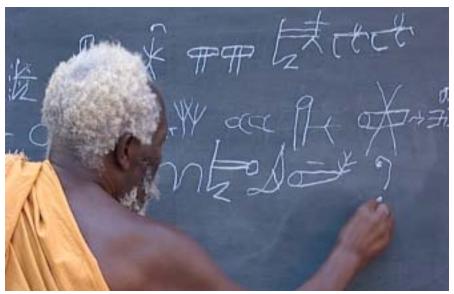
Documentary Cinema on the



Bruly Bouabré's Alphabet

"The work of Bouabré is a kind of wandering, like walking on the skin of things."—Andre Magnin

In the 1950's, Ivory Coast artist Frederic Bruly Bouabré created several hundred pictograms based on onesyllable words in his language, Bété, to help people in his community learn to read.

Bouabré's 400 pictograms, in various combinations, provide a playful yet tangible method of instruction, as demonstrated in BRULY BOUABRÉ'S ALPHABET. As the now elderly Bouabré explains, his aim was to "form a specific African writing from scenes of human life." Today a small number of people continue to use Bruly's alphabet, and museums around the world have exhibited his drawings.



"[Bouabré] deciphers the world as a visual text, creating a comprehensive guide to everything and everyone. Over decades Bouabré created a visual manuscript, an art manifesto, of life, death and everything; a metaphysically sympathetic curation of the entire modern world."—BBC

"Excellent! Recommended!" -- Educational Media Reviews Online

2006 Society for Visual Anthropology

17 minutes | color | 2005 | Order # ARO6-01 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$150

Napoleon, David: The Image Enthroned

A FILM BY PATRIC JEAN

Josephine as his

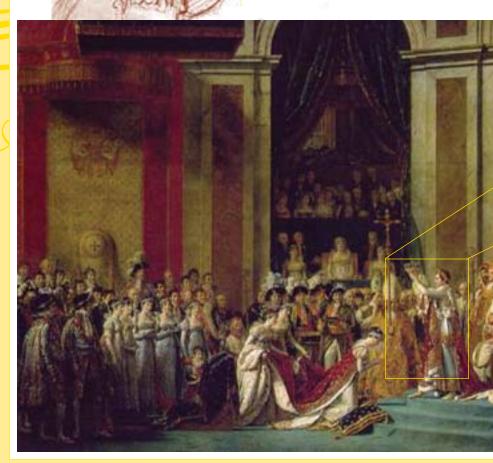
Empress.

In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul of the French Republic, commissioned Jacques-Louis David to glorify his ascension to power. The most celebrated of the resultant paintings portrays the coronation in Notre Dame, in which Napoleon, having already crowned himself Emperor, consecrates

NAPOLEON, DAVID examines both the art and politics of David's famous painting, detailing the artistic techniques employed to create the 20' x 30' canvas, as well as illustrating how art and propaganda were intertwined throughout Napoleon's

career, from David's earlier portrait Napoleon Crossing the Alps to the lavish spectacle Napoleon's Coronation.

Examining in detail the creation of *Napoleon's Coronation*, the film shows the miniature



models and numerous sketches David used as guides, reveals in close-up the alterations demanded by Napoleon, analyses David's masterful use of light and color, and identifies the historic personages portrayed.

NAPOLEON, DAVID thus demonstrates how a painter with a gift for glorifying his times found in a politician with an abiding concern for his public image a modern hero worthy of his talents. Their historic relationship confirmed the importance of the image in politics—indeed, how even today political power can be established through the strength of images.





"[David's painting is] a fish tank of images that largely fed the Napoleonic mythology. A passionate documentary."

—Pelerin Magazine

"An excellent analysis of the role of images in the elaboration of the Napoleonic myth."

—Tele-Cable-Satellite Hebdo

"The painting is mercilessly analyzed by the camera... The documentary tears the legend to pieces."—Le Monde

"Delightful and very instructive."

—La Croix

"Recommended!"

--- Educational Media Reviews Online

2004 Montreal International Festival of Film on Art

51 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order # AR06-02** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

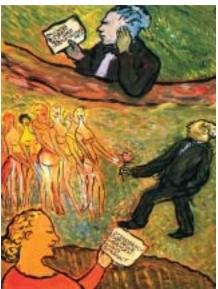
Charlotte: Life or Theater?

DIRECTED BY RICHARD DINDO PRODUCED BY ESTHER HOFFENBERG

CHARLOTTE: LIFE OR THEATER? is based on the work of Charlotte Salomon who, as a young Jewish painter from Berlin, took refuge in Nice during World War II.

Life or Theater?—a series of 769 poignant, unforgettable paintings—is her moving and singular masterpiece. Unique in the history of art, it has been transposed into a film by careful editing to highlight its dramatic potential.

In these gouaches, she tells the story of her childhood, her love for a singing instructor, her dreams of painting, the advent of Nazism, and her exile in France.









"Extraordinary! Dindo's camera swoops down on these gouache paintings, the edges of which are never seen as if they unfolded endlessly like huge comic strips. Sensitive and searing... Wonderful!"—Le Monde

"A magnificent poem. Dindo has thrown himself headlong into an exploration of this startling work. He has re-framed and scanned over the scenes depicted, faithfully followed the sentences, word by word, that Charlotte wrote on her gouache paintings."—Liberation

"Recommended! A moving introduction to Charlotte Salomon's unique creation, and to the terrible sad circumstances that engendered it."—Educational Media Reviews Online

62 minutes | color | 1992 | **Order # AR06-03**Sale/VHS or DVD: \$375

Constant, Avant Le Départ

"Creation and revolutionary struggle have the same objective: the realization of life."

-Constant Anton Nieuwenhuvs



The late artist Constant Anton Nieuwenhuys, known simply as Constant, was an influential member of the Dutch avant-garde and an internationally respected urban theorist.

In 1948 he formed the "Experimentele Groep Holland" with other artists, and later in Paris confounded "Cobra" with Karen Appel, Corneille, Asger Jorn, and others. In a Europe devastated by war, the Cobra sought to react to the inhumanity of a civilization based on reason and science

In the 1950s and 1960s Constant developed a series of drawings, models, collages and other projects for a utopian city—"New Babylon" in which mechanization allows for liberation from work and a new "situation." with room for the universal expression of creativity. Emerging out of the Situationist International group, the project was concerned with issues of "unitary urbanism" and the future of art in a technocratic society, and had a major impact on subsequent generations of artists, architects, and urbanists.

In the 1970s he returned to classic painting, with politically engaged subjects such as the Vietnam War and famine

CONSTANT, AVANT LE DEPART is an intimate glimpse into his life and work in the weeks before his death in the summer of 2005. Shot

in his studio as puts the finishing touches on his final painting Le Piège (The Trap), the film is also look into the artistic process and legacy.

Constant paints, sings Schubert, and receives visitors at his large table, where wine is served. His memories are intertwined with archive footage of Constant as a young man and a lovely segment on New Babylon, as Constant and his wife, Trudy van der Horst, bicker lovingly about these memories, the present, and future.

2006 Rotterdam International
Film Festival

2006 Amsterdam International Documentary Festival

2006 Visions du Réel

81 minutes | color | 2005 | Order # ARO6-04 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$398



The Hermitage Dwellers

A FILM BY ALIONA VAN DER HORST

For Russians and indeed all art lovers the Hermitage Museum in St.
Petersburg is a place of pilgrimage.
For museum employees it has also been a safe haven from the tumultuous events of Russian history and the hardships of contemporary Russian life.

In THE HERMITAGE DWELLERS we meet with several "Hermitageniks"—each of whom explains their own very personal reasons for considering the palace of Catherine the Great their "home"

and how their personal traumas and difficulties have been transformed by having developed an intimate relationship with a favorite piece of art.

The film also uses archival footage to reveal that while this revered institution has usually managed to keep twentieth-century history outside its walls—from the Revolution, the terror of Stalin, WWII, and the harsh post-Soviet years—these events have also left their indelible mark on the museum.

"A Must-See! Offers a fond (and often moving) glimpse behind the scenes at Russia's fabled Hermitage Museum."

—Entertainment Weekly



- "Powerful!"
 —Leonardo Reviews
- "Shows what art can do to people."—de Volkskrant (Netherlands)
- "Highly Recommended!
 Bittersweet poignancy... Riveting!"
 —Educational Media Reviews Online
- Grand Prize, 2006 Montreal International
 Festival of Films on Art
- Best Cultural Program, Dutch Academy
 AM Awards (2003)

73 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order # AR06-05** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$348



Hermitage-Niks: A Passion for the Hermitage A 5-PART SERIES BY ALIONA VAN DER HORST

$\mathop{\mathrm{Pelease}}\limits_{\mathrm{ase}}$ An in-depth, series version of THE HERMITAGE DWELLERS.

Episode 1 - A GLIMMER IN THE EYE

The Hermitage-niks do not work for money (their jobs are badly paid), but for "that other thing." Art handler Vadim, attendant Valentina



and curator Juna tell us about their most beloved artworks and explain the essence of the so cherished concept "Hermitage-nik."

Enisode 4 - SILENT SABOTAGE

In the 1930s, Stalin sold off the collection's best works. But some were hidden, buried away in the bowels of the Hermitage. With pain in their hearts, the Hermitage-niks reflect upon this black mark on the history of the museum.

Episode 5 - THE REMAINS OF AN ERA

Catherine the Great is still omnipresent in her winter palace, her acquisitions forming a stark contrast to the Hermitage's present-day purchases.



Episode 2 - GUARDIAN ANGELS

Alexandra (82), icon curator, has spent her entire life rescuing icons from destruction and has managed to amass quite a collection. Just as icons come alive for Alexandra, the Rembrandt's Danae comes alive for others.

Episode 3 - EMPTY FRAMES

Olga (76), head of museum maintenance, is one of the oldest Hermitage-niks. This unofficial czarina of the Hermitage runs her department with a firm hand and is forever marked by WWII.

"Highly Recommended! Shows the interplay of politics on art, the effect of art on the individual and showcases the history of a great museum through oral history interviews."—Educational Media Reviews Online

5 x 25 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order # AR06-06** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$398

Cracks in the Mask

A FILM BY FRANCES CALVERT

The elaborate turtleshell masks collected last century in Torres Strait in Australia are unique and irreplaceable, yet there are none left in the region: they're all in foreign museums. So Ephraim Bani, a witty expert on local myths, set out on a voyage to the great museums of Europe.

Going beyond arguments about arttheft, three avant-garde curators provide thought-provoking

challenges to Western
museums, illustrating how
museums decontextualize
cultures—the "poetics of
detachment"—and exclude
the very people whose
ancestors created the objects
in the first place.

"A treasure trove of superbly photographed Torres Strait pieces! A film which questions the very idea of a museum and shows how troubled many museum curators are about their role today."

-Oceanic Art Society Newsletter

"A moving, often poignant representation of issues surrounding the return of such collections to the descendants of their original owners."

—The Contemporary Pacific

Audience Award, 1997

EthnoFilmFest (Berlin)

Museum Prize for Best Film, 1998
Pärnu Film Festival (Estonia)

58 minutes | color | 1997 | **Order # ARO6-07** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

Dreamings: The Art of Aboriginal Australia

A FILM BY JANET BELL & MICHAEL RILEY

A journey to the scarred heartlands and lush mangroves of Australia, where Aboriginal artists keep alive their ancient and traditional forms, this film explores the sacred, stylized imagery of their artwork.

"★★★★! Radiates with power and authenticity."

-Video Rating Guide for Libraries



30 minutes | color | 1988 | **Order # ARO6-19** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$225

Fang: An Epic Journey

A documentary/fiction hybrid, FANG recounts an African art object's century of peril and adventure using film styles from each historical period. A whole century of Western attitudes towards African culture packed into 8 minutes!



"Highly Recommended! A little gem." -- Educational Media Reviews Online

"Fast, funny and provocative. The film focuses attention on the arbitrary and changing nature of the categories of 'art' in Western culture and raises important questions about the integrity of the object and the relationship between museum exhibition of objects and their value on the art market."-Professor Jean Borgatti, **Clark University**

"A complete delight, so witty and pithy if you blink, you may miss an important piece of art history."-Professor Suzanne MacRae, Univ. of Arkansas

8 minutes | c/b&w | 2001 | **Order # AR06-08** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$125

Living Memory - Six Sketches of Mali Today

PRODUCED BY SUSAN VOGEL. SAMUEL SIDIBÉ. ERIC ENGLES & THE MUSÉE NATIONAL DU MALI

This is a film about Mali's ancient and contemporary creative cultures, and their respective positions in the country today. Samuel Sidibé (Director of the Musée National du



Mali), the brilliant Malian cinematographer Racine Keita and Susan Vogel (founder of the Museum for African Art, New York) provide unparalleled access and an insider's vision.

The film is constructed in six sketches: Ritual Arts, Culture on Display, Style, Architecture, and Music. Alternately sensual, ironic, beautiful and humorous, the film exposes tensions in a creative culture assailed by modernization, Islam and global tourism.



"Evocative!"

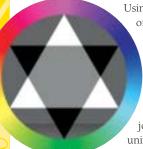
-Holland Carter, The New York Times

"Engages the full sweep of Mali's contemporary artistic production with an exceptional visual and conceptual clarity. A must see film!"-Mary Jo Arnoldi, Curator, African Art and Culture, National Museum of **Natural History, Smithsonian Institution**

53 minutes | color | 2003 | Order # ARO6-09 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

Light, Darkness, and Colours

A FILM BY HENRIK BOËTIUS, MARIÉ LOUISE LAURIDSEN & MARIE LOUISE LEFÈVRE



Using Goethe's Theory of Colors (Zur Farbenlehre) as a point of departure, LIGHT, DARKNESS, AND COLOURS takes us on a fascinating journey through the universe of colors.

Goethe spent more than 40 years of his life on this work, which in its own way summarizes his philosophy and connects his poetry with science.

In keeping with Goethe's method, the three directors work from a personal curiosity as they explore the natural laws and phenomena surrounding human sensory perception. Using strikingly beautiful timelapse cinematography, and duplicating Goethe's experiments on camera, they have crafted a visually stunning and intellectually rewarding film.

"Delightful! Ingenious! A memorable lesson in very smart thinking and seeing."

-Leonardo Reviews

"Fascinating! Highly Recommended! Dazzlingly beautiful... will help viewers of many ages understand color. Outstanding and very intellectually stimulating."

-- Educational Media Reviews Online

"Definitely Recommended!" —Video Librarian

a 2001 Montreal International Festival of Films on Art

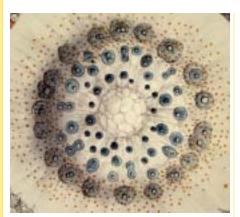
52 minutes | color | 1998 | **Order # AR06-10** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390





Proteus - A Nineteenth Century Vision

A FILM BY DAVID LEBRUN



For the nineteenth century, the oceans played much the same role that "outer space" played for the twentieth: they were the ultimate scientific frontier and what Coleridge called "the reservoir of the soul." PROTEUS—based almost entirely on the images of nineteenth century painters, graphic artists, photographers and scientific illustrators, photographers and scientific illustrators, photographed from rare materials in European and American collections and brought to life through innovative animation—uses the undersea world as the locus for a meditation on the troubled intersection of scientific and artistic vision

The central figure of the film is biologist and artist Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919). As a young man, Haeckel found himself torn between science and art, materialism and religion, rationality and passion, outer and inner worlds. Through his artistic endeavors and scientific discoveries, Haeckel would eventually bring science and art together in a unitary vision. His work would profoundly influence movements, thinkers and authors as disparate as Art Nouveau and Surrealism, Sigmund Freud and D.H. Lawrence, Vladimir Lenin and Thomas Edison.

Around Haeckel's story, PROTEUS weaves in the legend of Faustaud the alchemical journey of Coleridge's Ancient Mariner into a tapestry of poetry, biology, spirituality and art. "Dazzling! A broad... free-associative consideration of mankind's epic aspiration to reconcile art and science, terra and technology, evolution and religious dogma."

—LA Weekly

"Mesmerizing!"—Animation World

"A Truly Stunning Film!"
—Science Magazine

"Elegant and brainy."
—Cleveland Free Times

World Premiere, 2004
Sundance Film Festival

2006 John E. O'Connor Film Award, American Historical Association

Best Documentary, 2004
Philadelphia Film Festival

60 minutes | color | 2004 | **Order # AR06-11**Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



To Be Seen

A FILM BY ALICE ARNOLD

TO BE SEEN is a study of visual culture, of urban culture and an exploration of an age-old urban cultural phenomenon, street art. The subculture of street art is significant because it is an embodiment of subversive content, which is rare in today's culture of consumerism and political amnesia. It functions as a way of 'taking back the streets,' when public spaces are increasingly privatized.



expressions; and it investigates the public's perception of this work. Is it Art or Vandalism? And what is art's role within the context of public space and urban culture?

"Captures the new paradigm of personal communication within the corporate hegemony of signs."—Carlo McCormick, Senior Editor, Paper Magazine

"It's revealing to see and hear the street artists in TO BE SEEN thoughtfully explain their work. [It] should be seen by all those who take an interest in the urban environment."-Martha Cooper, Director of Photography at City Lore, New York Center for Urban Folk Culture / Author, Subwav Art

a 2006 Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival

Through a mix of interviews (including Stuart Ewen of Hunter College, the artists Swoon, Michael DeFeo, Dan Witz. Skewville. Faile. The Wooster Collective. marketing specialist Marc Schiller, sociologists Sharon Zukin and Anette Baldauf) TO BE SEEN looks at who is making street art and why: it examines the cultural and political significance of these





30 minutes | color | 2005 | Order # AROG-12 @ Sale/VHS or DVD: \$225

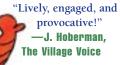
The Case of the Grinning Cat

In his newest film. French cinemaessayist Chris Marker reflects on art, culture and politics at the start of the new millennium In November 2001, he became intrigued by the sudden appearance of grinning yellow cat paintings on Paris buildings, Metro walls and other public surfaces, and began to document the mysterious materializations of this charming feline.

This engaging record of Marker's cinematic peregrinations throughout the city chronicles political incidents, a variety of political protests (about Iraq, Tibet, immigration), elections, and celebrity scandals. The personalized commentary running throughout the film offers simultaneously learned and witty reflections on both the contemporary and historical implications of these varied events and personalities.

Eventually, the creator of the grinning cats is revealed to be an art collective known as Mr. Cat, whose members are shown painting a massive representation of their mascot on the plaza before the Pompidou Center.

Marker concludes with thoughts on the vital importance of such expressions of art and imagination in our public lives, echoing the May '68 slogan that "La poésie est dans la rue" ("Poetry is in the street").



"Bracing! A fantasyreverie about graffiti of cartoon Cheshire cats mysteriously appearing in unexpected, hidden places, rather like the proliferating

post horns in Thomas

Pynchon's The Crying of Lot 49." —Jonathan Rosenbaum, Cinema Scope

"Critic's Pick!"-Time Out

"The film's message, finally, is to leave a little place to the imagination in a world that has become more and more violent."

-Le Parisien

58 minutes | color | 2004 | **Order # ARO6-13** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390





More Docs on Art!

Art and Remembrance: The Legacy of Felix Nussbaum A FILM BY BARBARA PEFFER

While in hiding in Brussels during WWII, Felix Nussbaum created a major body of work about Jews and the Holocaust. Shortly before the city's liberation, he was captured, sent to Auschwitz, and murdered. Twenty-five years later the paintings were discovered, and today Nussbaum is recognized as a great artist.

29 minutes | color | 1993 | **Order # AR06-14** Sale/VHS: \$225

Artful History - A Restoration Comedy A FILM RY JASON SIMON & MARK DION

By presenting "before and after" scenarios, shows how paintings can suffer more irrevocable damage in a few moments under a restorer's hand than in centuries of decay.

"A trenchant critique."—Village Voice

30 minutes | color | 1988 | Order # ARO6-15 Sale/VHS: \$225

Atomic Artist A FILM BY GLENN SILBER & CLAUDIA VIANELLO

Sculptor Tony Price lives near Los Alamos National Laboratory to be near its junkyard. Rare metals, hemispheric bomb casings and weapon prototypes provide both the inspiration and source materials for his "atomic art."

"Excellent!"—San Francisco Chronicle

29 minutes | color | 1983 | Order # ARO6-16 Sale/VHS: \$280

Black Dawn A FILM BY ROBIN LLOYD & DOREEN KRAFT



Animated from paintings by thirteen of Haiti's foremost artists including Rignaud Benoit, Philom

Obin, and Philippe Auguste—BLACK DAWN tells the story of founding of Haiti, told through the eyes of two captured Africans, Sili and Simba.

"Superbly animated!"—Film Library Quarterly

20 minutes | color | 1979 | Order # ARO6-17 Sale/VHS: \$225

Culture Jam: Hijacking Commercial Culture PRODUCED BY LYNN BOOTH & JILL SHARPE

A new breed of revolutionary stands poised along our information highways waging war on logos and symbols. Meet the "Culture Jammers" whose

mission is to artfully reclaim our mental environment by causing a bit of brand damage to corporate mindshare.



"Edgy and entertaining." —Journal of American Culture

52 minutes | color | 2001 | **Order # AR06-18** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$348

The Future Is Not What It Used to Be A FILM BY MIKA TAANILA

Erkki Kurenniemi-an unsung pioneer of the electronic age and leading figure in Finland's avant-garde whose career encompasses a surprisingly natural blend of music, film, and computers—has been preserving all his thoughts, which are fed into a computer with a constant stream of his photos and film, thus creating a "virtual persona," to be premiered in July, 2048.

"A highly intellectual film. Engrossing!" —The Miami Herald



52 minutes | color | 2002 | Order # ARO6-20 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

More Docs on Art!

Howard Finster: Man of Visions A FILM BY JULIE DESROBERTS, RANDY PASKAL & DAVE CARR

This is a candid look at the unique Reverend Howard Finster, who, after forty five years of preaching, received instruction from God in 1976 to paint his spiritual messages.

20 minutes | color | 1988 | Order # ARO6-21 Sale/VHS: \$190

On Snow's Wavelength, Zoom Out

The unclassifiable artist Michael Snow has been experimenting since the 1960's in almost every field of artistic endeavor. Filmmaker Teri Wehn-Damisch takes us into Snow's world by reversing the slow zoom-in of Wavelength, the artist's influential experimental film. Commented on and accompanied by Snow at the piano, the zoom-out becomes a progressive discovery of the artist's works.

56 minutes | color | 2001 | Order # ARO6-22 Sale/VHS: \$298

Painted Landscapes of the Times A FILM BY HELENE KLODAWSKY

With startling depictions of the world around her, painter Sue Coe has shocked the art establishment. In the tradition of Daumier, Coe's work has a keen ideological thrust that directly identifies and addresses aberrations in our society.

"Sue Coe is one of the most important social protest artists working today."—ArtNews

30 minutes | color | 1987 | Order # ARO6-23 Sale/VHS: \$225

Order Information

Please refer to Order Numbers on all orders.

Sales: Videos are "leased for the life of the tape." They come with Public Performance Rights. A rental fee may be deducted from the sale price if the video is purchased within 60 days of the rental. Videos may be previewed for purchase consideration by established video libraries.

Shipping: An additional fee is added to sales & rentals for shipping via UPS.

Ordering: Use a purchase order, or pay in advance of shipping. Please refer to Order Numbers.

The People's Painting

A chronicle of Vitaly Komar's and Alex Melamid's project using polls, market research and focus groups to create a "good" and "bad" painting according to the results. Called "conceptualism at its most elegant and effective" (New York Times), the paintings and the film are an examination of the tools of late Twentieth Century capitalism.

"Delightful! A must watch for anyone who has even the tiniest interest in art."-Radio Times

49 minutes | color | 1998 | Order # ARO6-24 Sale/VHS: \$298



Swing in Beijing A FILM BY SHUIBO WANG

In this comprehensive survey of creative life in contemporary Beijing, Academy Award nominee Shuibo Wang integrates artist interviews with footage of paintings, plays, music, film and other art.

"Striking! Compelling! An incredibly rare opportunity."—Asian Theatre Journal

73 minutes | color | 2000 | **Order # AR06-25** Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440

First Run / Icarus Films 32 Court Street, 21st Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201

(718) 488 8642 Fax: Phone: (718) 488 8900 Toll Free: (800) 876 1710 E-mail: mailroom@frif.com Web: www.frif.com



First Run / Icarus Films 32 Court Street, 21st Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201

1-800-876-1710 www.frif.com

25 Documentaries for Museum Studies, Art History & Fine Arts

7 New Releases!
Including a New Chris Marker Film!

