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| Jordan, Lawrence (1934-) |
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| Lawrence (Larry) Jordan has been a pioneering experimental filmmaker for over six decades. Raised in Denver, CO, he attended high school with filmmaker Stan Brakhage and composer James Tenney. In the late 1950s, he befriended artist Joseph Cornell, with whom he collaborated on a number of films. Jordan played a key role in the development of Bay Area film culture, as co-founder (with Bruce Conner) of the Bay Area’s first film society and first 16mm experimental theater in 1958, and later, as a founding member of Canyon Cinema. In total, he has made more than fifty films, both live action and animated, many in collaboration with other artists, but is best known for his animated cut-outs of Victorian engravings, which reflect the influence of Cornell’s *Wunderkammer*-like boxes and Max Ernst’s collage novels. His surreal animations, such as *Duo Concertantes* (1964) and *Our Lady of the Sphere* (1969), range from the meditative to the whimsical and the uncanny, and often feature vintage costumes, exotic animals, floating objects, and magical landscapes imaginable only within the alchemical dream-world of the cinema. Jordan represents an important strand of the postwar American avant-garde that looked back to early film history with sincere affection more than camp irony, and attempted to recover the enchantment of cinema at the turn-of-the-century.  **Selected List of Works**  *Waterlight* (1957)  *Visions of a City*(1957-79)  *Duo Concertantes*(1961-1964)  *Cornell*(1965-1978)  *Gymnopédies*(1966)  *Our Lady of the Sphere*(1969)  *The Sacred Art of Tibet*(1972)  *Orb* (1973)   *Once Upon a Time*(1974)  *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*(1977)  *Moonlight Sonata*(1979)  *Carabosse*(1980)  *Masquerade*(1981)  *Adagio*(1981)  *In a Summer Garden*(1982)  *Winter Light*(1983)  *Sophie's Place*(1986)  *Tapestry* (1988)  *The Visible Compendium*(1990)  *The H.D. Trilogy* (1990-1993)  *Postcard from San Miguel* (1996)  *Enid's Idyll*(2004)  *Blue Skies Beyond the Looking Glass*(2006)  *Circus Savage* (2009)  *Cosmic Alchemy* (2010)  *Beyond Enchantment* (2010)  *Solar Sight*(2011)  *Solar Sight II* (2012)  *Solar Sight III* (2013) |
| Further reading:  Atkinson, Michael. (2012) “Lawrence Jordan’s Road to Utopia”, *Keyframe* (online), http://www.fandor.com/blog/lawrence-jordan%E2%80%99s-road-to-utopia.  Geritz, Kathy. (2010) “The Venue Vanguard: Artists as Exhibitors, 1955-1965 (Interview with Lawrence Jordan)”, *Radical Light: Alternative Film & Video in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-2000*, Steve Anker, Kathy Geritz, Steve Seid (eds.) Berkeley, CA: University of California Press: 79-83.  MacDonald, Scott. (2007) “Nathaniel Dorsky and Larry Jordan on Stan Brakhage, Maya Deren, Joseph Cornell, and Bruce Conner”, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 24, 1: 1–10.  Sitney, P. Adams. (1980) *Larry Jordan*, Minneapolis, MN: Film in the Cities.  Duncan, Michael and Kristine McKenna (eds.) (2005) *Semina Culture: Wallace Berman & His Circle*, Santa Monica, CA: Distributed Art Publishers, Inc./Santa Monica Museum of Art. |