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| **About you** | **[Salutation]** | Richard | [Middle name] | Leskosky |
| [Enter your biography] | | | |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | | | |

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| **Your article** |
| Lye, Len (1901 –1980) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| [Enter an **abstract** for your article] |
| New Zealander Len Lye was an experimental pioneer in painting, sculpture, documentary, and animation. After studying native art in Samoa, he emigrated to England in 1926. His early paintings anticipated abstract expressionism and he later became associated with surrealism, with multiple works in London’s 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition. During World War II, Lye made live-action films for the British government and, after migrating to the USA in 1944, for the March of Time series. His kinetic (motorized) sculptures figured prominently in international exhibits throughout the 1960s.  Best known for his experimental animation, Lye was more concerned with depicting motion than the moving figures. He pioneered camera-less filmmaking—which he called ‘direct cinema’—by applying paint to clear film stock (*Colour Box*, 1935) and scratching images on the emulsion of exposed film (*Free Radicals*, 1958). He also manipulated the three colour matrices of the Gasparcolor process to create textured film images (*Rainbow Dance*, 1936) and explored the potential of the rayogram, Man Ray’s camera-less photographic process (*Colour Cry*, 1952). His imagery often suggests that of the Pacific Island tribes with which he lived in his youth, and he frequently utilized jazz scores in his films. Disney studio animators studied Lye’s films while working on *Fantasia*, and he influenced many avant-garde filmmakers including Norman McLaren, Ian Hugo, and Stan Brakhage.  **Filmography**  *Tusalava* (1929)  *Experimental Animation* (1934)  *Colour Box* (1935) paint on film  *Kaleidoscope* (1935) paint on film, with stencils  *The Birth of the Robot* (1936), puppet animation  *Rainbow Dance* (1936) manipulated Gasparcolor matrices  *Trade Tattoo* (1937) manipulated colour  *Full Fathom Five* (1937) paint on film  *N. or N.W.* (1937) live-action  *Colour Flight* (1938) paint on film  *Swinging the Lambeth Walk* (1939) paint and scratching on film  *Musical Poster #1* (1940) paint and scratching on film  *When the Pie Was Opened* (1941) live-action  *Newspaper Train* (1941) live-action documentary  *Work Party* (1942) live-action  *Kill or be Killed* (1942) live-action training film  *Cameramen at War* (1943) live-action documentary  *Basic English* (1945) live-action instructional film  *Color Cry* (1952) rayogram  *Rhythm* (1957) live action  *Free Radicals* (1958) scratching on emulsion  *Peace* (1959) superimpositions  *Free Radicals* (revised version, 1979)  *Particles in Space* (1979) scratch film  *Tal Farlow* (1980) scratch film completed after Lye’s death by his assistant, Steven Jones  *A Colour Box* can be found on the Internet Archive at  <http://archive.org/details/A_Colour_Box> |
| Further reading:  (Bendazzi)  (Lye, Curnow and Horrocks)  (Lye, No Trouble)  (Russet and Starr) |