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| Dreams That Money Can Buy |
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| *Dreams That Money Can Buy* (1947)is an avant-garde film written, produced, and directed by the Surrealist painter and Dada film theorist Hans Richter. It took three years and cost 25,000 dollars to produce. The film follows the protagonist, Joe, who sells dreams to his clients, and consists of a montage of seven largely unconnected scenarios. It is thus considered modernist in style as it rejects the traditional cinematic convention of continuity. Richter collaborated with a group of avant-garde and Surrealist artists and figures in the production of the film; Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Fernand Léger, and Alexander Calder all wrote and directed one or more of the seven scenarios, making the film a collaborative piece. John Cage, Paul Bowles, Darius Milhaud, and Louis Applebaum composed the soundtrack. Central themes in the film include the question of the artist’s role in society, and the place of the individual in post-war society. Its reception upon release was mixed, and some critics have argued that its Surrealist style was culturally dated by 1947 (Berger, 2013). In 2013, the film was restored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Fund, and The Film Foundation. |
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| Further reading:  (Richter)  (Berger)  (Jacobs)  (Richter, The Avant-Garde FIlm Seen from Within )  (Richter, The Film as an Original Art Form ) |