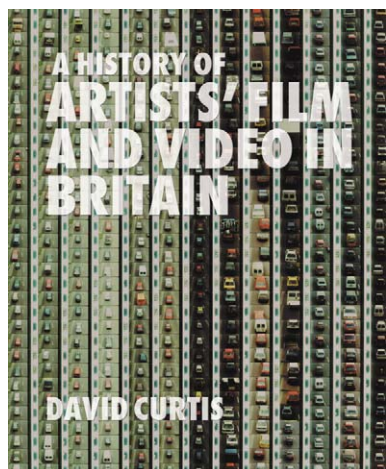


Books press release



A History of Artists' Film and Video in Britain

David Curtis

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Priced £25 (paperback, 294pp)

ISBN: 1-84457-096-7

This major new BFI book by David Curtis is the first comprehensive history of artists' film and video in this country.

Since its invention in the 1890s, artists have responded to cinema's challenge, whether in pursuit of visual poetry, the exploration of the art form's boundaries, the hope of political impact, or more simply, the desire to re-invigorate such time-honoured fine art subjects as portraiture and landscape. Their work represents an alternative history to that of commercial cinema in Britain – and a tradition of art-making that has been only intermittently written about.

In recent years the use of film and video by British artists has come to widespread public attention. Jeremy Deller, Douglas Gordon, Steve McQueen and Gillian Wearing all won the Turner Prize (in 2004, 1996, 1999 and 1997 respectively) for work with the moving image. This explosion represents the culmination of a long history of activity by artists and experimental filmmakers, both famous and less well known.

Written by the leading authority in the field, **A History of Artists' Film and Video in Britain** brings to light the range and diversity of British artists' work in these mediums as well as the artist-run organisations that have supported the art-form's development. In so doing it greatly enlarges the scope of any understanding of 'British cinema' and demonstrates the crucial importance of the moving image to British art history.

The book considers the work of some 300 artists. It is lavishly illustrated with 277 colour plates and has a comprehensive index.

About the author

David Curtis trained as a painter in London in the 1960s and succumbed to the cinephilia of the age. He published *Experimental Cinema* in 1971 while organising screenings at the Drury Lane and Robert Street Arts Labs. He was Film Officer at the Arts Council from 1977 until 2000, leaving to found the British Artists' Film & Video Study Collection at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. He curated *A Century of Artists' Film in Britain* for Tate Britain in 2003-2004.

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Notes to editors:

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