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978-0-521-38821-4 - Avant-Garde Film: Motion Studies

Scott MacDonald

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The past thirty years have seen the proliferation of forms of independent cinema that critique the conventions of mass-market commercial movies from within the movie theater. *Avant-Garde Film/Motion Studies* examines fifteen of the most suggestive and useful films from this film tradition: *No. 4 (Bottoms)* by Yoko Ono, *Wavelength* by Michael Snow, *Serene Velocity* by Ernie Gehr, *Print Generation* by J. J. Murphy, *Standard Gauge* by Morgan Fisher, *Zorns Lemma* by Hollis Frampton, *Riddles of the Sphinx* by Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen, *American Dreams* by James Benning, *The Ties That Bind* by Su Friedrich, *From the Pole to the Equator* by Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi, *The Carriage Trade* by Warren Sonbert, *Powaqqatsi* by Godfrey Reggio, *Naked Spaces – Living Is Round* by Trinh T. Minh-ha, *Journeys from Berlin/1971* by Yvonne Rainer, and *The Journey* by Peter Watkins. Through in-depth readings of these works, Scott MacDonald takes viewers on a critical circumnavigation of the conventions of moviegoing as seen by filmmakers who have rebelled against the conventions. MacDonald's discussions do not merely analyze the films; they provide a useful, accessible, jargon-free critical apparatus for viewing avant-garde film, which communicates the author's pleasure in exploring "impenetrable" works with students and public audiences.

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Avant-Garde Film

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To the hundreds
of Utica College and Hamilton College students
who have shared their reactions and insights with me

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