

## Film – the beginnings

*Michael Snow – Clip 19*

I started making films because in 1954 I guess it was or maybe '53.....no prior to '53 I spent a year and a half in Europe trying to find myself and not necessarily doing a good job of it but I did a lot of drawing at that time and when I came back to Toronto I had an exhibition of drawings and I received a telephone call from a guy who said that he's seen the exhibition and liked it very much and he thought that whoever had done those drawings must be someone who's very interested in the movies or film and...I had to say well that's an interesting observation but no I'm not particularly, you know I went to the movies occasionally but it never really .... Anyway he said he would like to meet me so I met him and he offered me a job. It turned out that he was George Dunning who with a couple of other people who had been at the National Film Board had started a company in Toronto called Graphic Associates or Graphic Films and they did animation and they were the first company I think in Canada to do television commercials and stuff like that. Anyway George was interested in having fine artists as opposed to commercial artists learn how to do animation and so I was very much in a confused state and it was just amazing that all of a sudden I got this job and I learned how to do animation on the job there and that's where I met Joyce Wieland. Anyway that was my introduction to film and

my introduction to film was seeing it from the inside. Animation is about frame to frame, you know how motion is done in film and that's when I became interested in it and I made my first film just to make a film when I was there. It's called A to Z and it's a kind of animation of this type of drawing that I was doing then which were sort of "Klee-ish."