

a world of oil



Lobby, 555 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Wade Acton
(415) 894-4895

AMERICAN FOLK ART FILM AND LECTURE SERIES

Chevron World Of Oil Theater

555 Market Street, San Francisco

April 24 Through May 3 & May 14 through May 22

Daily at Noon / Admissions: Free

Chevron's World of Oil Theater will present seven films and four speakers in celebration of American folk artists and their art. These films, scheduled to coincide with The Chevron Gallery presentation of "Dreambuilders," are described as . . . "magical and entertaining films, full of humor, tragedy and wisdom, capture the wonder and excitement of folk art" and feature "naive artists, unschooled and unaffected by exposure to art movements, expressing basic human passions and emotions in a raw and blatant manner. Their work contains a treasure of ethnic and regional folk art and a vision of a utopian world."

Local, award winning filmmakers, Allie Light and Irving Saraf will appear on three of the film dates to speak on their films featured in the program. Also scheduled is Dr. Paul Groth, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Groth will give a talk entitled, "Some Larger Dreams: The Cultural Landscapes of Farm, Road-building and City Folk." Mr. Seymour Rosen, a professional photographer, lecturer and consultant who has devoted over 20 years to a collection of contemporary folk art will discuss the specific works in the "Dreambuilder" exhibit currently displayed in the Chevron Gallery as well as the worldwide phenomenon of folk architecture.

JOIN US FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY SERIES OF FILMS AND LECTURES !

(more)

AMERICAN FOLK ART FILM AND LECTURE SERIES
CHEVRON WORLD OF OIL THEATER

"THE TOWERS" . . . April 24 & 25

A sensitive poetic film record of the famous towers in Watts, California and their creator, Simon Rodia, made as he was in the final stages of their completion.

"MUDFLAT ART" . . . April 26 & 27

Motorists traveling to San Francisco on Interstate 80 can glimpse the unique sculptures; stopping to browse among them is all but impossible. In this Ric Reynolds film we are given a tour and explanation on the significance of the mud flat as a wildlife sanctuary, and old Indian shell mound, and more recently, as a turn-of-the-century amusement park.

MR. SEYMOUR ROSEN . . . May 1

Mr. Rosen is a professional photographer, lecturer and consultant who has devoted over 20 years to a collection of contemporary folk art. He will discuss the specific works featured in the "Dreambuilder" exhibit currently featured in the Chevron Gallery as well as the worldwide phenomenon of folk architecture.

"GRANDMA MOSES" . . . May 3 & 4

A short film depicting the life and art of this American classic. Little known facts about Grandma Moses are sure to delight the audience of this sensitive biographical film.

"GRANDMA'S BOTTLE VILLAGE" . . . May 14 & 15
ALLIE LIGHT & IRVING SARAF . . . May 14"

Award winning filmmakers Allie Light and Irving Saraf will be present on May 14 to speak on their production of "Grandma's Bottle Village" which is the story of Tressa Prisbrey who built her first bottle house to hold her 17,000 pencils. This was the beginning of The Bottle Village in Simi Valley, California. Now 84, Grandma is a vivacious guide to her 15 brilliant houses crammed with objects scavenged from the county dump.

"CHIEF ROLLING THUNDER" . . . May 16 & 17
ALLIE LIGHT & IRVING SARAF . . . May 16

At age 71, Chief Thunder lives with his young wife and small children in The Monument -- a concrete and stone house he built and decorated with powerful forms and arches. His overwhelming sculptures, "Spirits of the Living," portray Indian heroes, family and friends. The film captures the tragedy of his life, his painful isolation, the beauty of his work and his creative process. Allie Light and Irving Saraf will be present on May 16 to talk of their impressions and the production of "Chief Rolling Thunder."

"POSSUM TROT" . . . May 18 & 21
ALLIE LIGHT & IRVING SARAF . . . May 18

Calvin Black was a folk artist of the Mojave desert who created over 80 wooden, nearly life-size dolls, each with its own personality, function and costume. He built the Bird Cage Theater where the dolls perform and sing in voices recorded by Calvin. The film present two levels: Calvin's legacy -- the grotesque figures moving in the desert wind, the theater with its frozen "actresses," protected by his widow from a world she views as hostile. The other level is Calvin's vision as only film can show it -- the dolls move and sing as he imagined them and the Bird Cage Theater comes to life. Join Ms. Light and Mr. Saraf on May 18 for their view into this unique film and man.

DR. PAUL GROTH . . . May 22

Join Dr. Groth, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at University of California, Berkeley who will speak on "SOME LARGER DREAMS: THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF FARM, ROAD-BUILDING, and CITY FOLK."