

Chicago Filmmakers presents

CORPOREAL CONSTRUCTIONS
Representations of the Body
in Science and the Cinema

Corporeal Constructions is a diverse program of short films and videos highlighting how the moving image has been used to construct our conceptions of the human body. The screening will include rare archival films, films and videos by contemporary artists, as well as novel examples of modern medical imaging. By juxtaposing provocative works from these three genres, the program will explore how films and videos are part of an active struggle to construct the contested notion of the human body.

INSCRIBING INTERIORS

creating images of private spaces

Moving X-Rays

Nicholas Kauffmann, 1938, USA, 16mm, 10 minutes

This educational film from the first half of the century is one of the earliest compilations of moving x-ray images of the human body. Produced as a form of public entertainment, this film highlights science's quest to probe private spaces within our bodies.

An/Aesthetic

James Barnett and Robin Forster, 1994, UK, video 5 minutes

With opening and closing shots of their erect penises, these gay artists appropriate the x-ray, imaging their own bodies and projecting their own irreducible sexuality.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EPISTEMOLOGY

questioning disease and who is labeled as diseased

A Venereal Disease Rapid Treatment Center

US Department of Agriculture, 1944, USA, 16mm, 10 minutes

This film documents an unusual public health service conducted by the US government at mid-century. Female venereal disease patients are shown entering a rehabilitation center to receive physical, mental and social rehabilitation. The film shows disturbing connections between conceptions of venereal disease at mid-century and AIDS at the close of the twentieth century.

they are lost to vision altogether

Tom Kalin, 1989, USA, video, 13 minutes

This video challenges conventional notions of the diseased body and serves as an erotic retaliation to the conservative political climate in the late '80s. Kalin paints a portrait of the national fear and hysteria that has usurped compassion and care for people with AIDS.

CONSTRUCTING FEMALE SEXUALITY

reproducing and resisting what it means to be a woman

Naturally a Girl

1969, USA, 16mm, 14 minutes

This mod educational film from the late '60s serves as a proto-feminist statement on emerging female sexuality.

S'Aline's Solution

Aline Mare, 1991, USA, video, 9 minutes

Using contemporary medical images, this work is a highly personal rumination on the debate over abortion. The medical images are used as evidence for life in the womb, and simultaneously employed to make a decidedly pro-choice statement.

THE IDEA OF BEAUTIFUL

making, remaking, and contesting the beautiful

A Beautiful Idea

Woodward Cosmetics, 1970, USA, 16mm, 5 minutes

For all those women looking for just the right way to make themselves beautiful, Woodward Cosmetics created this comprehensive beauty film, providing step by step instructions on how to become beautiful.

Aletheia

Tran T. Kim-Trang, 1995, USA, video, 16 minutes

Aletheia explores the interwoven issues of cosmetic surgery, technology, language, race, and gender. Incorporating footage of plastic surgery and a tour of LA plastic surgery clinics, this video examines normalcy, beauty and the effects of Western culture on Asian women's bodies.

MAPPING THE BODY AT THE END OF THE MILLENIUM

locating scientific representations of the body in the late twentieth century

Probe

Robert Wyrod, 1998, USA, video, 5 minutes

A struggle to recount a forgotten journey into the center of a complex for mapping and probing the body.

The Visible Human Project

National Library of Medicine, 1996, USA, video, 5 minutes

Audio design Barry Hensler and Robert Wyrod

The Visible Human Project is the most comprehensive visual atlas of the human body. A project of the National Library of Medicine, this atlas contains photographs, x-rays, MRIs and CAT scans of one male and one female cadaver. This video is a visual fly through of photographic slices of the two cadavers, and is a graphic portrayal of the scientific drive to quantify the human body.