VISUAL VARIATIONS ON NOGUCHI BY MARIE MENKEN VISUAL VARIATIONS ON NOGUCHI BY MARIE MENKEN VISUAL VARIATIONS ON NOGUCHI BY MARIE MENKEN VISUAL VARIATIONS ON NOGUCHI BY MARIE MENKEN VISUAL VARIATIONS ON NOGUCHI
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Marie Menken, an abstract artist in her own right, uses the sculpture of the famous American-Japanese artist, Isamu Noguchi, to create an original, exciting work of art. By means of a hand-held, ambulating camera and brilliant cutting, Noguchi's beautiful forms are made to move in rhythms, much as the separate drawings of an animation artist are made to take movement into a live artistic whole. Despite these formal film-techniques, there is love and sympathy expressed in the result: another artist's excitation on seeing great works of art. And Miss Menken, in asking the young composer, Lucille Dlugoszewski, to do the music for her little film, suggested she approach the work as Noguchi's sculpture had been approached. Miss Dlugoszewski's score will, no doubt, (as it has at its previews) create violent reactions among those not too familiar with avant-garde music, but the unprejudiced will be loudly grateful (as they have at its previews) for this audacious experiment. It is music where structure emphasizes timbre, using percussions, "the poetry of natural sound" (matches being lit, paper torn, books dropped), the human voice and techniques in the piano strings. It is, as composer John Cage suggests, "a jungle of sounds" which the willing will "explore!"
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN SUCH PURELY DYNAMIC TREATMENT OF SCULPTURE IN A FILM. MARIE MENKEN HAS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORMED NOGUCHI'S SCULPTURE INTO HER OWN MEDIUM.

NORMAN McLAREN

Academy Award Winner: NEIGHBORS
and together it is all happiness
MARIE MENKEN WRITES

- My camera and I took a turn about Noguchi’s studio and the camera-eye recorded the happy journey and when Lucille saw what the camera had seen she too took a happy journey and together it is all happiness.

LUCILLE DLUGOSZEWSKI WRITES

- Every sound in the score is the magic of its bewilderment and exists only as its timbre and so the ear will be shocked into listening to paper because it has probably never heard it before. If the listening is innocent enough it will see that bewilderment is glorious because it alone is true. And this listening will maybe almost see.

From "Notes on the Music for Marie Menken's Film on Noguchi"*
*A copy of the full text of Miss Dlugoszewski's notes will be supplied with sales or rentals of this film.
Marie Menken has successfully transformed Noguchi's sculpture into her own medium.

NORMAN MCLAREN: Academy Award Winner: NEIGHBORS