



## Essential Deren: Collected Writings on Film

*By Maya Deren*

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### Essential Deren: Collected Writings on Film By Maya Deren

Until now, Maya Deren's essays on the art and craft of filmmaking have not been available in a comprehensive volume equally handy for students, film enthusiasts, and scholars. *Essential Deren: Collected Writings on Film* contains all of Deren's essays on her own films as well as more general essays on film theory, the relation of film to dance, various technical aspects of film production, the distinction between amateur and professional filmmaking, and the famous 1946 chapbook titled "An Anagram of Ideas on Art, Form and Film," which has been reset here for the first time. There are hard-to-find articles written for magazines and art journals, as well as lectures, Q&A sessions, program notes, and manifestoes. This book will be particularly welcomed by the large audience that saw Martina Kudlacek's documentary, "In the Mirror of Maya Deren," during its theatrical release in the U.S. and Europe in 2002. The importance of Maya Deren's films and writings is further evidenced by the American Film Institute having named its highest award for independent filmmaking the "Maya Deren."

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Maya Deren was the first of a distinguished succession of filmmaker-theoreticians of the American avant-garde cinema... -- *P. Adams Sitney, author of Essential Cinema*

### **About the Author**

Maya Deren's immigrated to the United States with her parents, grew up mainly in Syracuse, New York, and attended Syracuse University. A social activist from her teens, she became interested in dance and then in filmmaking. Throughout the 1950s, until her death in 1961, Maya was a leading exponent of experimental cinema and considered one of the most influential artists. She traveled to Haiti in 1947, which led to the classic ethnographic study, *Divine Horsemen*. A two-hour documentary on her life and work was produced for BBC television in 1987.

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