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## Corporeal Constructions

### Capsule by Fred Camper

*From the Chicago Reader*

Thematic programs of short works are usually superficial explorations of overly general themes, but this is a rare exception. Curator Robert Wyrod, a graduate student in sociology at the University of Chicago, has organized nine films and videos into an intellectually coherent examination of objective versus subjective views of the body. Pairing medical and instructional films with artists' works, Wyrod questions--and at times renders absurd--the information produced by scientific study. Thus the X-ray views of the body in Nicholas Kaufmann's *Moving X-rays* (1938) are followed by James Barnett and Robin Forster's *An/Aesthetic* (1994), in which an opening shot of two X-rayed penises encourages one to see sexual possibilities in the abstractions that follow. *A Beautiful Idea* (1970), a sterile film sponsored by a cosmetics company, leads to *Aletheia* (1995), Tran T. Kim-Trang's highly subjective collage of varying ideas of beauty. The show's strongest work, Aline Mare's *S'Aline's Solution* (1991), combines the objective and subjective as pro-choice statements about pregnancy soon lead to images of living fetuses, via spooky, lushly-colored images of salt dissolving into water. On the same program, Tom Kalin's *They Are Lost to Vision Altogether*, *A Venereal Disease Rapid Treatment Center*, and *The Visible Human Project*.

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