

COMP

LY

Metro Times
May 12-18, 1999



THROUGH MAY 29

SCREEN MEMORIES

Is there life after images? Filmmaker and artist **juLiE mEitZ** asks that question with each element of **Dance of Life**, her studio installation of film, video and performance art subtitled

"WorldwideProblems&Consumerism." The hallway outside mEitZ's loft is festooned with documentation, like the entrance to a movie theater or museum exhibit, proclaiming connections and references — notably to French conceptual artist Christian Boltanski, and film auteurs Jean-Luc Godard, Wim Wenders and Mathieu Kassovitz et al. The film and French cues are not arbitrary, as this wondrous project about looking and seeing demonstrates repeatedly. Just inside the front door are shelves containing dozens of 16mm film canisters, while a curtain of film strips hangs in the entrance to the loft's kitchen. The central studio area is a matrix of criss-crossing phantasmagoria which mEitZ has created using 10 film projectors and video monitors of various sorts, each with its own image-narrative and sound. Collaged, intercut sequences from Kassovitz's *Hate*, Godard's *Weekend*, Wenders' *Wings of Desire*, *Taxi Driver*, *Zorba the Greek*, etc.,

underline themes of class consciousness, alienation, glamour and Identity in capitalist culture. Movie chairs have been placed, singly and in pairs, for viewing ease. Additional commentary and specimens of French advertising fill the walls; small flashlights shine in the darker corners; veils hang from the ceiling, catching the image from a 16mm projector. A display tribute to Boltanski, involving a child's clothing and mirrors, sets up a contrast between memory and the ever-changing present of our lives. Then a kind of shrine to self-awareness features photographs of Detroit actress Gwen Joy (pictured) who appears in mEitZ's own film showing continuously on a video monitor nearby. Watching this silent poetic work, you notice, five stories below, the very same street where some of its sequences were shot. Emphasizing and underlining this image-reality dialectic at every turn of the cinematic screw, mEitZ manages a political-artistic apotheosis. On view Saturdays, May 15, 22 and 29, from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. or by appointment, at 1265 Griswold, No. 500, Detroit. An elevator man will meet you at the door and take you up. Call 313-961-4998. -George Tysh