

# Movement Energy

---

Amy Taubin

---

Andrej Zdravic  
Collective For Living Cinema

---

Andrej Zdravic, who showed earlier this year at the Anthology and more recently at the Collective, gives promise of being a real filmmaker. What is most striking about his work right now is a vivid sense of how the frame of the screen traps — and thus compresses and heightens — the energy of movement. And there's a converse awareness of the ephemerality of his image-subjects which are destroyed and remade in movement.

His lyricism is especially apparent in the rushing water imagery of *Waterbed*, and in *Breath*, a kind of diary belonging to the paper scraps which move, unnoticed,

around us in the street.

Zdravic's strongest film is *Phenix*, a documentary of his father at work. His father is chief surgeon in a hospital and specializes in skin grafting on burn victims. The subject is extraordinary. It is insufficient and almost impertinent to compare the surgeon's work in cutting and sewing and collaging bodies to the making of an art object; nevertheless the metaphor hovers over the film.

What I value is that Zdravic's regard for his father's amazing craft made him more concerned with documenting the surgeon's process of work than revealing to us his own feelings about hospitals, etc. For this reason, when the inevitable comparison is made between this film and Stan Brakhage's hospital film, I must say that I respect this film far more than Brakhage's which uses similar subject matter toward very questionable ends. ●