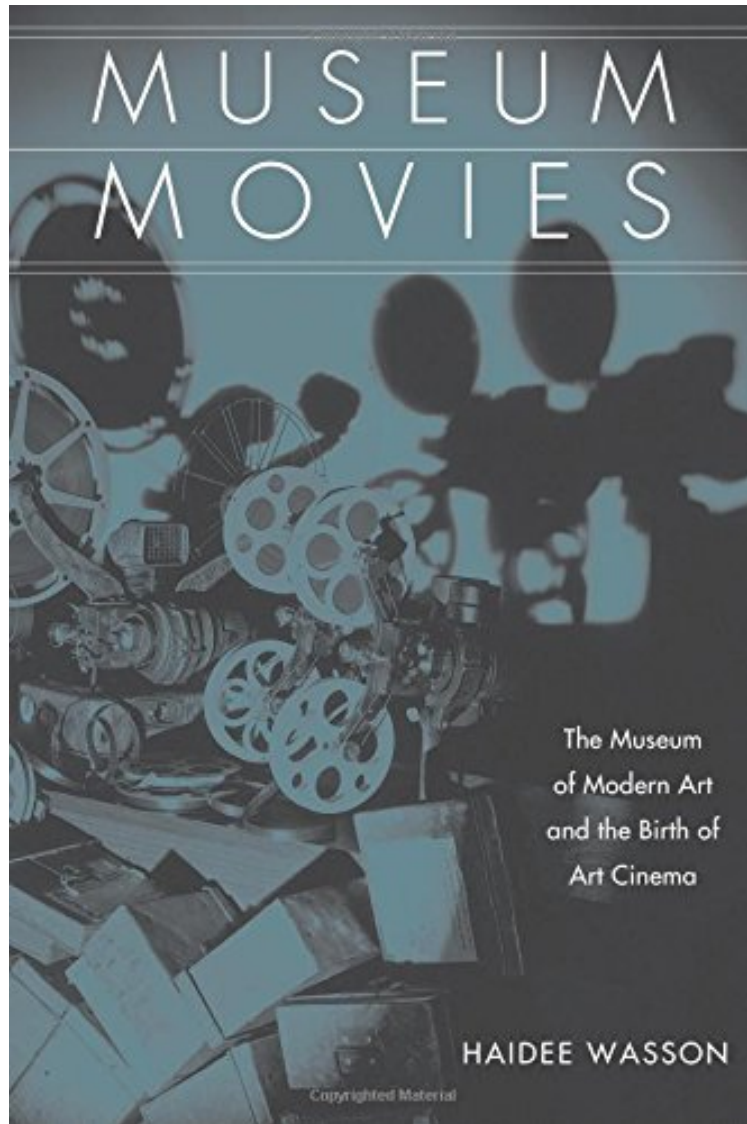


Museum Movies: The Museum of Modern Art and the Birth of Art Cinema

Haidee Wasson

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Haidee Wasson : Museum Movies: The Museum of Modern Art and the Birth of Art Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Museum Movies: The Museum of Modern Art and the Birth of Art Cinema:

Haidee Wasson provides a rich cultural history of cinema's transformation from a passing amusement to an enduring art form by mapping the creation of the Film Library of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, established in 1935. The first North American film archive and museum, the film library pioneered an expansive moving image network, comprising popular, abstract, animated, American, Canadian, and European films. More than a repository, MoMA circulated these films nationally and internationally, connecting the modern art museum to universities, libraries, women's clubs, unions, archives, and department stores. Under the aegis of the museum, cinema also changed. Like books, paintings, and photographs, films became discrete objects, integral to thinking about art, history, and the politics of modern life.

"No other publication has discussed the intellectual roots of the national film archive preservation and exhibition in such detailed, explicit terms." *From the Inside Flap* "Impeccably researched, lucidly argued, Haidee Wasson's book reveals MoMA's significant role in transforming film culture during the interwar years. Producing the first systematic study of the museum's relationship to cinema, she not only contributes original work to the field, but signals new directions in film historiography. This is a full-scale exploration of the rise of film as art and a timely intervention in historical research." Barbara Klinger, Indiana University "No other publication has discussed the intellectual roots of a national film archive and its efforts to preserve and exhibit films in such detailed, explicit terms. Wasson makes a significant and unique contribution to the field." Jan-Christopher Horak, editor of *The Moving Image*