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CRITIC'S CHOICE



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by Rob Kendt

Filmmaker Nina Menkes will appear with a retrospective of two early films at Filmforum.

Keys to Menkes

If you think that credible underground cinema is a thing of the radical-chic past, a good, long look at Nina Menkes' work is in order. Good, long looks are her specialty, in fact; her meticulously observed and suggestively framed shots have drawn comparisons to Antonioni and Tarkovsky.

Her new film, *Queen of Diamonds*, is making the festival rounds, garnering good notices and bewildered attention. Her last film, 1986's anguished *Magdalena Viraga*, was named "Best Independent Film" by the L.A. Film Critics' Association.

Filmforum will present *Viraga* and the non-dailogue *The Great Sadness of Zohara* at LACE, Mon. April 8 at 8 p.m. Menkes, who teaches classes in film at USC and CalArts, will appear. Admission \$5 general; \$4 students, seniors, disabled; \$3 Filmforum members. LACE is located at 1804 Industrial Street. For Filmforum information call (213) 663-9568.

—Rob Kendt