



Mikhail Kalatozov, USSR, 1930, 62 min, silent with Russian intertitles and English subtitles

June 14. 2017 6pm Blinken OSA Archivum



Salt for Svanetia is a haunting portrait of a village in the remote, snowbound region of Caucasus, Svaneti. Celebrated for Mikhail Kalatozov's masterful expressive camera work, the film instantly placed him alongside the great Soviet directors. *Salt for Svanetia* is based on Sergei Tretyakov's script and includes episodes from Kalatozov's earlier film *The Blind Woman*, which had been banned for distribution, along with nonfiction footage he shot in Svanetia. The Svans are shown as people of archaic culture, retaining medieval practices and living a natural economy. Kalatozov's ethnographic fiction combines authentic medieval towers and re-enacted events to visualize Tretyakov's indictment of "three locks that keep the Svans in the dark middle ages: houses, roads, and the dead." The combination of bird's eye panoramas with a subjective camera, diagonal, low-angle shots and dynamic editing emotionally affect the viewers with images of isolation in picturesque and austere conditions. The poetry of repetition and juxtaposition, distance and extreme close-up, wild rhythms and radical constructivist angles blends fiction and documentary in a powerful and expressive visual statement.

The screening is introduced by **Dr. Oksana Sarkisova** (Blinken OSA)

Free admission Limited seats are available on a first come first served basis from 5.40 PM.

Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives | 1051 Budapest, Arany János utca 32.