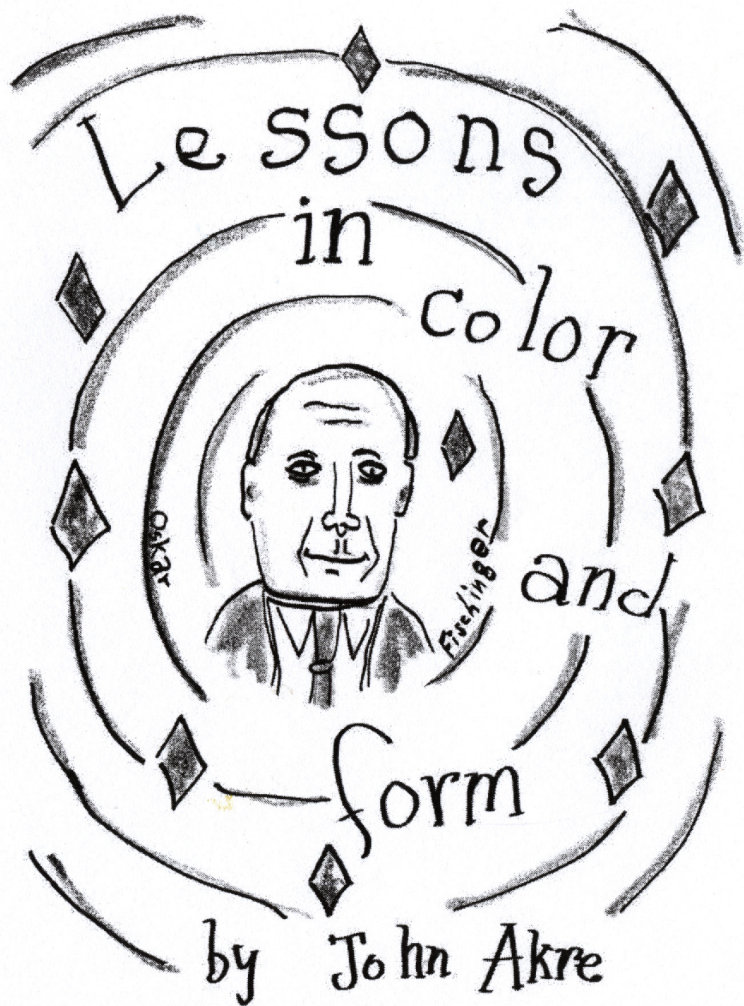
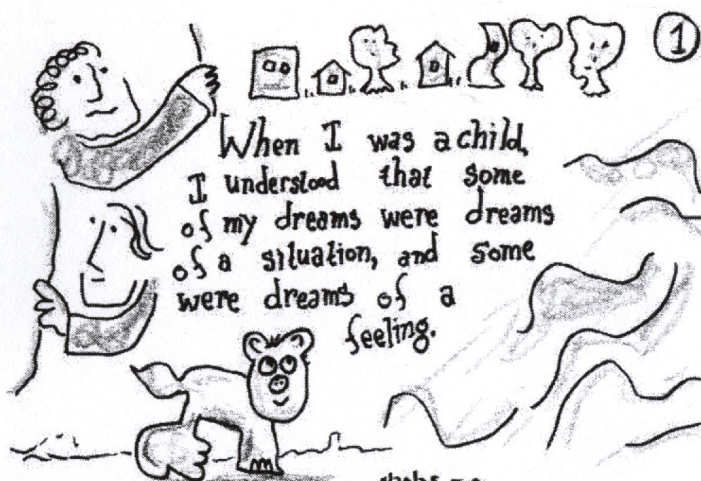






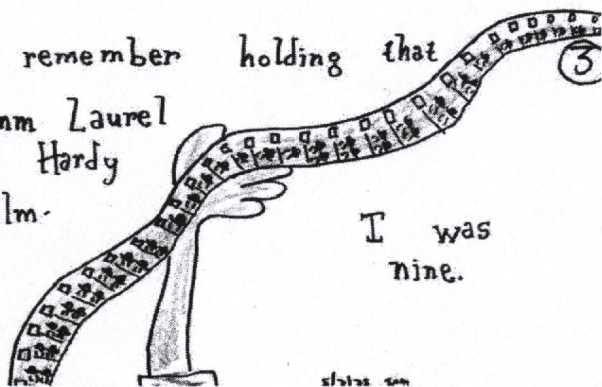
My Dreams of
a feeling were

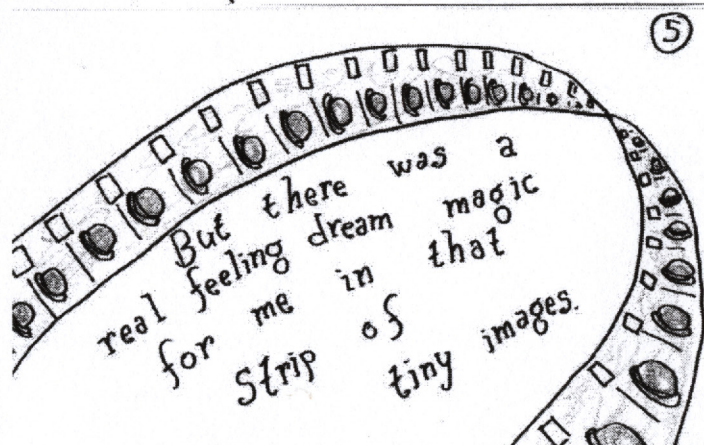
infrequent, nonobjective,
and elusive -

Upon waking, their
color and vague form
dissolved in the
lines of reality.

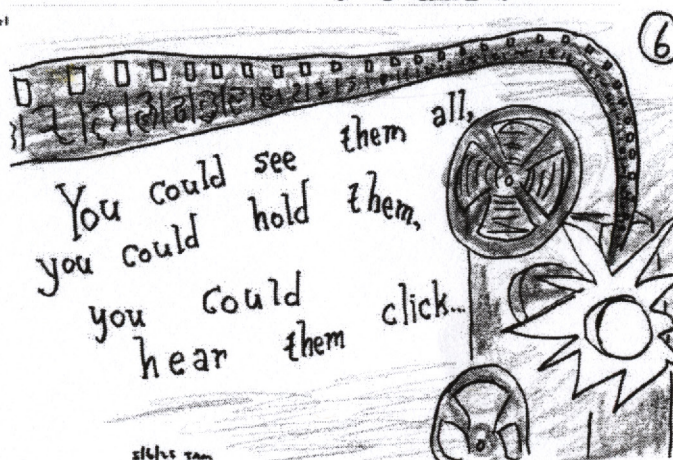
I remember holding that
8mm Laurel
and Hardy
film.

I was
nine.

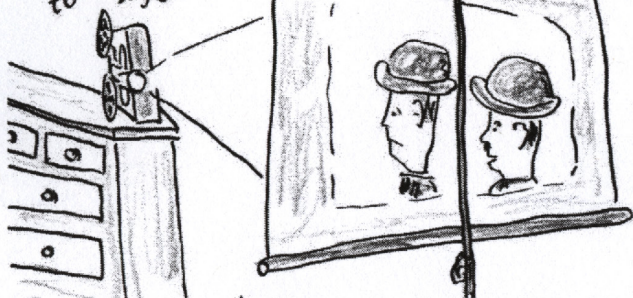




stefan



As the projector
brought them
to life.



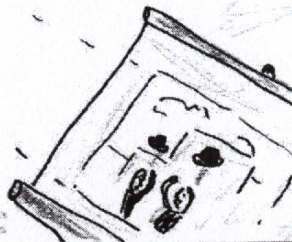
7

That magic
inspired me
to make
my own
movies...



8

Which had stories
and situations like
the movies
I watched
at home...



9

And that
I watched
huge
in the
theater.



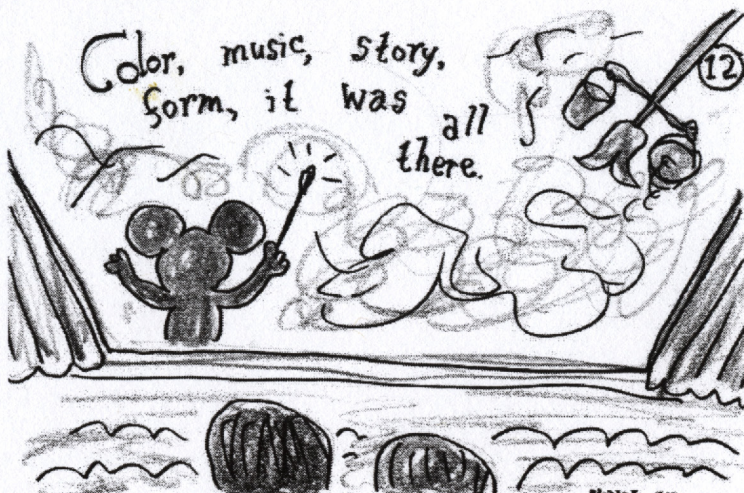
sketch 008



My brother
and I went
downtown on
the bus to
see a 1970's
reissue of
"Fantasia" at
the Fox
theater.

sketch 009

Color, music, story,
form, it was all
there.



sketch 010



(13)

Hypnotized
by "Fantasia,"

I listened
to records,
and saw
the pictures.



(14)

Again and again -
Ravel's "La Valse" -
sounds of

light and dark
and crashing
and laughter...



static era

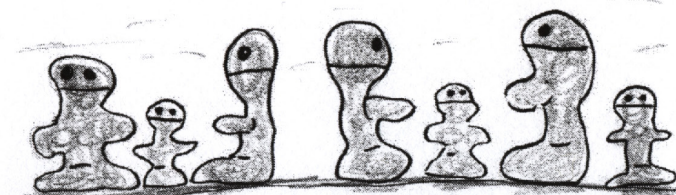
(15)

How could I picture
this music?



static era

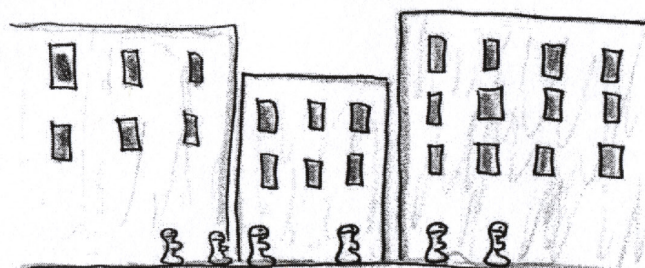
16



I had my small
clay characters, the Hiblings.

I had a story
of some kind...

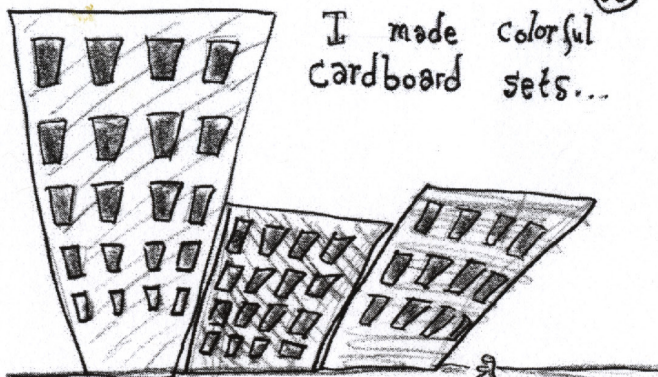
17



slightly tan

18

I made colorful
cardboard sets...



slightly tan

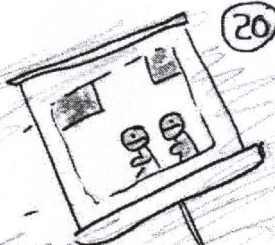


(19)

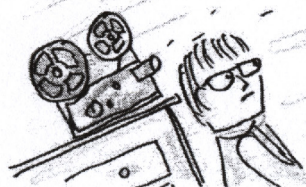
I animated
them on
Super 8.

status 944

But it wasn't
working for me—

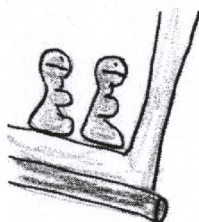


(20)



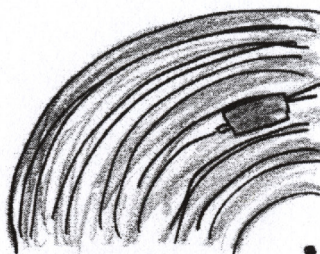
No feeling,
no dream.

status 944



(21)

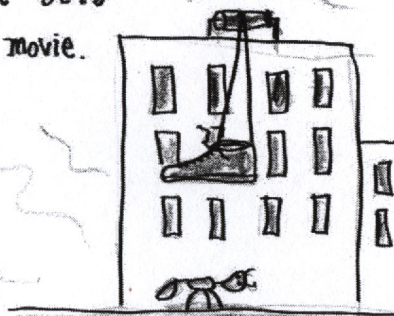
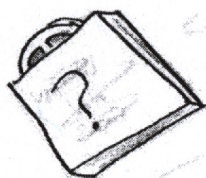
My pictures
weren't
the
music.



status 944

So I abandoned that
project, reusing the sets
for another movie.

(22)



sketches.com

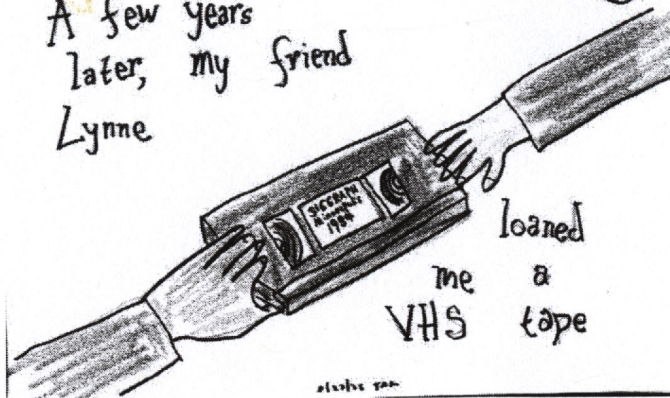
My ache to make pictures move
to music and feeling
took a break.

(23)

sketches.com

A few years
later, my friend
Lynne

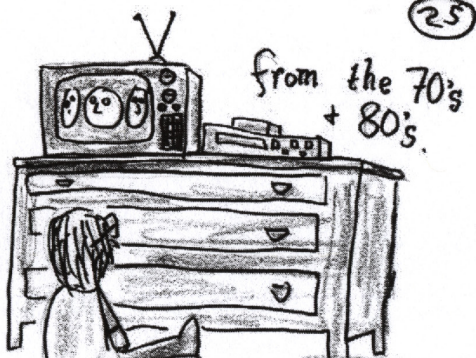
(24)



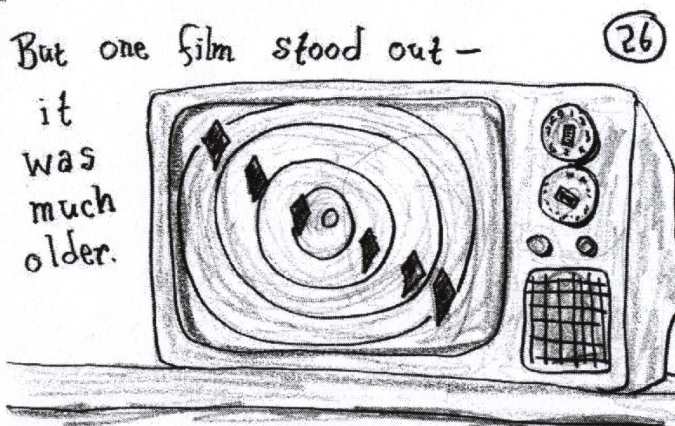
loaned
me a
VHS tape

sketches.com

Most of
it was
experimental
computer
animation



But one film stood out -
it
was
much
older.



"Allegretto," by
Oskar Fischinger

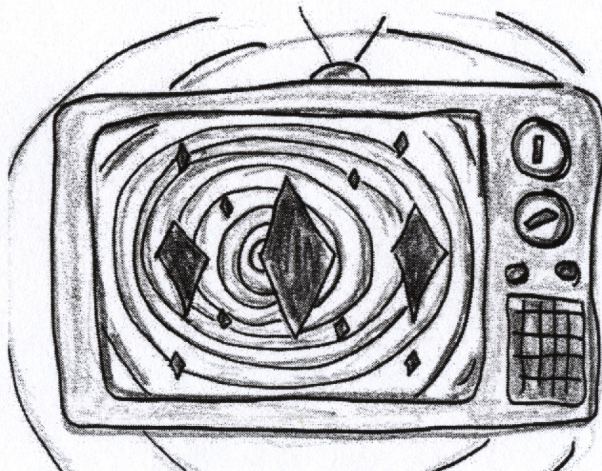
It was commissioned
by Paramount Pictures
to be part of

"The Big
Broadcast of
1937"

(28)

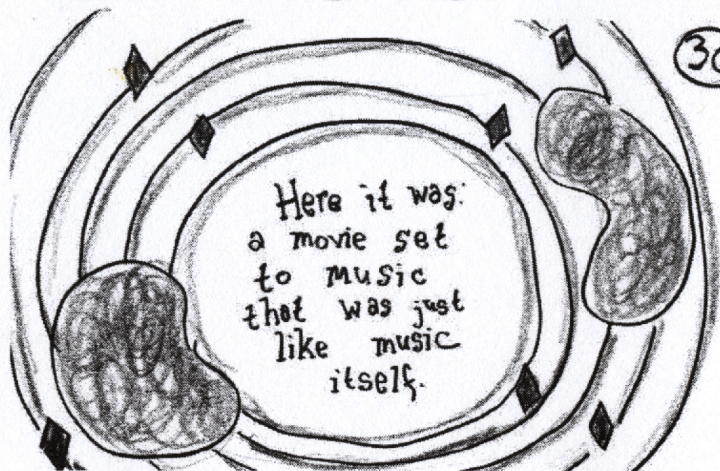
starring
Jack
Benny

but not
included in
the film.

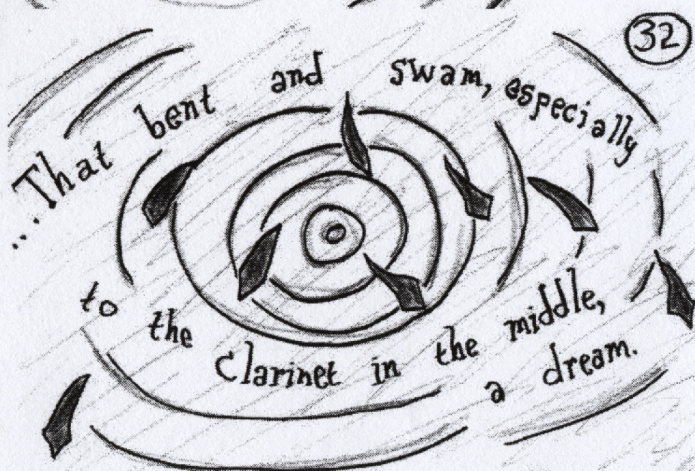
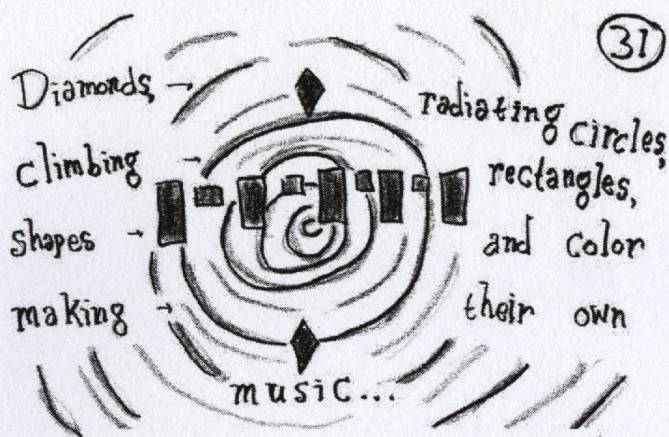


(29)

The
picture
on my
black and
white
TV
ached
of
color.



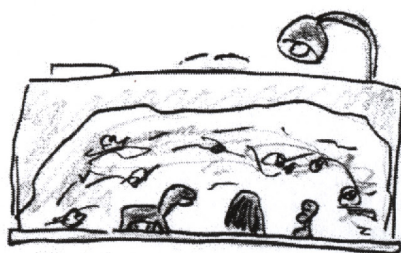
(30)



I didn't know
this world
when I was
a teen.



34

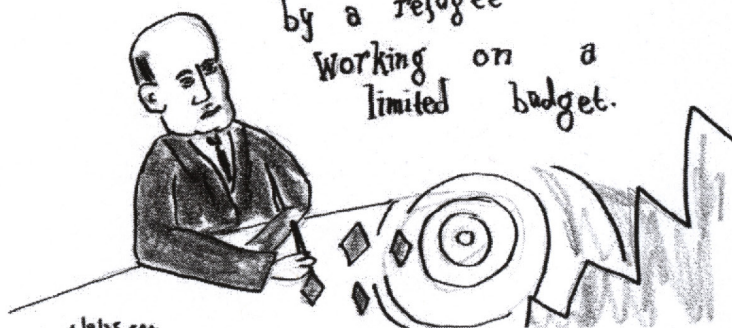


I knew only movies
with figures and stories.



Here was color and form,
but absolutely alive and created
by a refugee
working on a
limited budget.

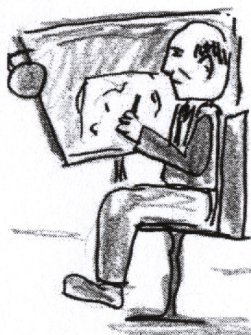
35



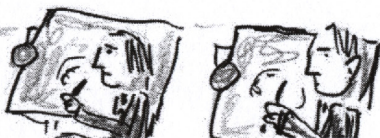
Much later
I read that
Fischinger's
work...

36

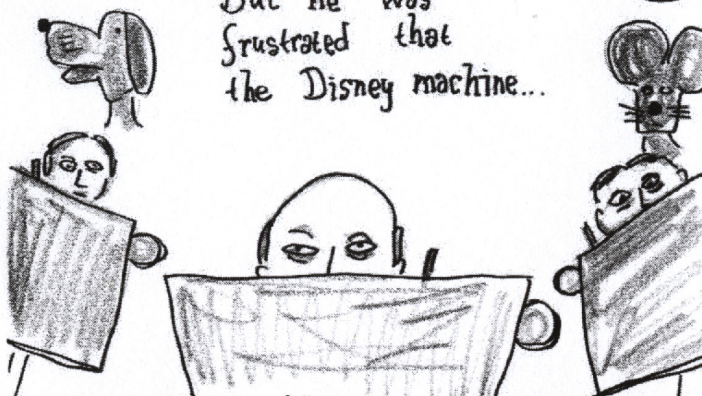
Inspired Walt
Disney to
make
'Fantasia'

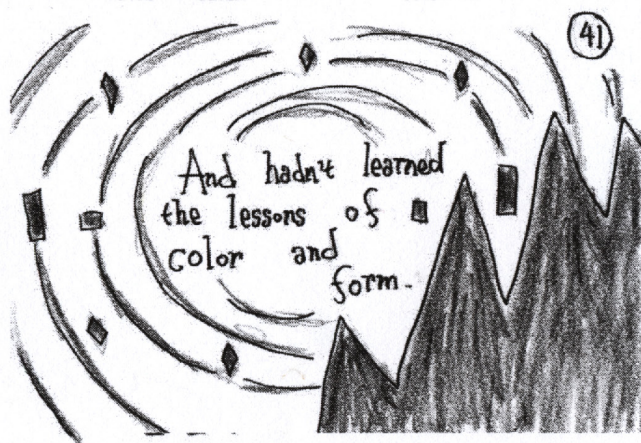


Fischinger even
worked on
Fantasia for
a while



But he was
frustrated that
the Disney machine...





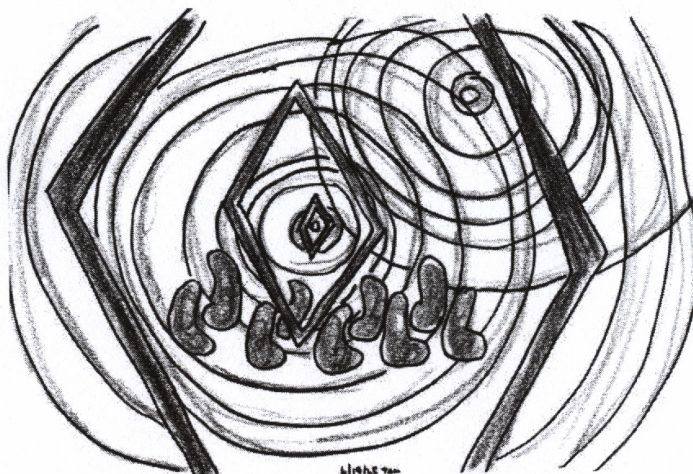
(43)

When I was
ready for it.



John Akre

This comic was made
from daily drawings created
from April 30 - June 18, 2025.
Special thanks to Beth Pelff,
Oskar Fischinger, and Lynne Merrick.
www.johnakre.com



John Akre