

Born in Brookline Massachusetts in 1949, Robert Beavers attended public schools in Weymouth (MA), then Boston Latin School and Deerfield Academy before meeting the filmmaker Gregory J. Markopoulos and making his first 16mm film in 1966 in New York. It was shown at the Fourth International Experimental Film Competition in Knokke-le-Zoute (Belgium) the following year. By that time Beavers had re-located to Europe with Markopoulos, and over the next decades he made films in Greece, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and most recently the U.S.A. The one fixed point was the Temenos Archive in Uster, Switzerland. In the past few years there have been retrospectives of his films at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Tate Modern, Pacific Film Archive and Austrian Filmmuseum. He lives with the filmmaker, Ute Aurand in Berlin and Massachusetts and continues to make films on 16mm. In 2017, the Austrian Filmmuseum published a collection of essays on his filmmaking.

Fellowships and Prizes:

1970 Berliner Künstlerprogramm – DAAD, Berlin
1972 John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, NYC
1974 prix de la Fondation Maeght, Saint Paul-de-Vence, France
1987-1991 Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur
1992 Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art, Vevey
1999 Experimental Film Award, National Society of Film Critics, N.Y.C.
2000 Visiting Fellow, Princeton University
2008 G. & B. Schwyzer-Winiker Stiftung, Zürich
2009 Fellowship, St. John's College, Oxford University
2014 Grand Prize, Media City Film Festival, Windsor, Canada
2015 Honorable Mention, Festival L'Age d'Or, Brussels
2017 Stan Brakhage Vision Award, Denver Int. Film Festival
2018 G. & B. Schwyzer-Winiker Stiftung, Zürich
2020 National Film Registry of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Retrospectives:

2005 Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC.
2007 Tate Modern, London
2009 Pacific Film Archive, SF MoMA & SF Cinematheque
2010 Österreichisches Filmmuseum, Wien
2011 Courtisane Film Festival & La Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique
2015 Cinema Mon Amour, Pacific Film Archive, U. of C. Berkeley

Festivals (selection):

IV Int. Experimental Film Competition, 1967-68, Knokke-le-Zoute; Underground Film Festival 1974, London; TIFF Toronto Int. Film Festival – Wavelengths; NYFF, Views from the Avant-garde; Rotterdam Int. Film Festival, London Int. Film Festival – Experimenta; Torino Film Festival; Berlinale, Forum Expanded; Courtisane Festival, Gent; Temps d'Images Festival, Lisbon; Aurora Film Festival, Norwich; Festival Int. du Films sur Art (FIFA), Montréal; Viennale; Int. Kurzfilmtagen Oberhausen; Video Ex (Zurich); Flexfest, Gainesville FL; Media City Film Festival, Windsor, Canada; Festival L'Age d'Or, Brussels; Doclisboa; Gijon Int. Film Festival; S. F. Film Festival; Cinéma du Réel, Paris; Halftime Underdog im Filmmuseum Munich

