

THE LABRADOR INSTITUTE OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
& THE COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

present

LABRADOR/ANS ON FILM

2015-16 SEASON

SCREENING #3: A FAMILY OF LABRADOR

Roughly halfway through *A Family of Labrador*, narrator Clyde Rose openly laments, “*it seems* the good life is lost forever”. It is a sentiment more complex than it first appears. Referring quite directly to an Upper Lake Melville society prior to the advent of Goose Bay, Rose’s comment suggests the made-up-ness of the idea. The good life – whatever it is – may not have actually passed, but the peculiar set of circumstances that define Upper Lake Melville in 1978 could lead someone to that conclusion. Thirty-eight years after its release, the film, and this particular idea, continue to have relevance. As we understand even more intimately today, there are at least two things that broadly define Upper Lake Melville. First, since Goose Bay, the region has been in a state of constant change. Second, in spite of that change, an older form of society persists. By exploring these often-contradictory forces within a family unit, Martin’s approach reveals at least as much about possible points of convergence, about ways in which the old can survive within and even structure the new. It would seem that what remains just out of reach is some mechanism to achieve that balance.

A Family of Labrador (National Film Board, 50 mins, 1978) Dir. Kent Martin.

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