



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org

會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Into Great Silence

A Film by Philip Groning

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Friday, December 9, 2009 7:30 PM
113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

Into Great Silence takes the viewer into the Grand Chartreuse, the head monastery of the Catholic Carthusian order. The monastery was founded by St. Bruno in 1084, although its present construction dates from 1676. As the title implies, the film is mostly in silence. We see the monks at prayer in their private cells, performing Gregorian chants, attending Mass, working in the kitchen, the vegetable gardens, chopping wood, sewing robes and reading spiritual texts. The monastery is located in a remote valley high in the alps. The film features two newcomers just admitted to the order, and tracks the course of life in the monastery through the seasons. The walls of the monastery are devoid of artwork except for a few crucifixes, the food is plain, and most modern electronic equipment is lacking -- a notable exception being a laptop computer used by the abbot. Rather than giving the viewer verbal discussions of Catholic philosophy or practices, the film puts the viewer face to face with the monks and gives a sense of how they live.

Admission is Free

