DECEMBER 7-13 • AN OPINIONATED SURVEY

ART

Carl Andre: Andre's latest floor piece—an alignment of granite blocks—may leave you cold, but the photos of his hometown, Quincy, Massachusetts, explain things: they're full of rockpiles, stone quarries, tombstones, and snow. Through December 18, The Clocktower, 108 Leonard Street, 784-2084. (Levin)

Sherrie Levine: Rephotographed reproductions of Kirchner paintings; repainted watercolors of artbook photos of Mondrian, Léger, El Lissitzky, and Stuart Davis paintings; redrawn charcoals of reproductions of DeKooning's sketchy women, all make a (moot) point about mediation. Conceptual contortions and double distancing may not double the fun, but might make you think twice. Through December 22, Baskerville + Watson Gallery, 24 West 57th Street, 582-0058. (Levin)

Tom Otterness: His recent drawings of those truncated cylindrical australopithecine ancestors of his, doing perverse acrobatic animalistic things—or just making faces—are oddly graceful. And the dozen notebook pages of studies are absolutely classic, in a caveman way. Through December 17, Brooke Alexander Gallery, 20 West 57th Street, 757-3721. (Levin)

DANCE

FILM

Ericka Beckman: Like primitive cartoons, Beckman's films are filled with syncopated energy, perceptual game-playing, and ingenious, homemade special effects. Out of Hand is an Allstate Insurance commercial as it might appear to an autistic child; You the Better, which drove the NYFF audience into a frenzy, concerns an enigmatic gambling game-half dodge ball, half roulette-played by a five-man team in what looks to be a giant pinball machine. December 10, Millennium, 66 East 4th Street, 673-0090. (Hoberman)

Devi/Distant Thunder: Two of Satyajit Ray's finest films show completely disparate Indias. Devi is an almost Buñuelian story about the havoc wreaked when a vain old man decides his daughter-in-law is a goddess. Distant Thunder is a perhaps too-lyrical meditation on the horror of the 1943 Bengali famine. December 7, Metro Cinema, Broadway at 99th Street, 222-1200. (Hoberman)

Filmdance Festival: It's a mammoth compendium of over 100 dance films of every sort (and quality). Among some of the more attractive programs are Trisha Brown/Babette Mangolte's Water Motor and Yvonne Rainer's Lives of Performers on December 8 at 8, December 10 at 10; performance events as film, including work by Judith Dunn, Robert Morris, and Joan Jonas on December 7 at 8; Meredith Monk's 16-Millimeter Earrings, Kenneth King's Space

The film's straightforward format is complemented by the characters' flamboyance, which filmmaker Mira Nair wisely encouraged. December 13 at 6, Museum of Modern Art, 18 West 54th Street, 708-9490. (Francia)

MUSIC

Caamo: That stands for Contemporary African American Music Orchestra, a creation of the estimable reedman and composer Dr. Ken McIntyre, whose quartet will be augmented by David Murray. December 9, Manhattan Healing Arts Center, 386 Broadway, 685-4786. (Giddins)

City Center Anniversary Gala: City Center has been at the very heart of New York's performingarts history for the past 40 years, and one trusts due tribute will be made. Music, dance, and drama will be represented by some of the most illustrious people in their respective fields. Tom Bosley will once again impersonate Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, who gave the first signal for the enterprise. Beverly Sills may dance (she's stopped singing), and Peter Martins may sing (he's stopped dancing, as of this morning). Other names include Bernstein, Makarova, Paul Taylor, Uta Hagen, and so on. And not all the seats for this benefit cost an arm and a leg. December 12 at 8, with reception at 7, City Center Theater, 131 West 55th Street, 246-8989. (Kerner)

Johnny Copeland: This Texas bluesman has been uneven live, but

