

"Your Brain, My Mind: Memory, Language and Perception in Artists' Video"

Inherent in video art is the uncanny ability to manifest and express the unseen and partially known. Nowhere is this more apparent than in video works that explore functions we attribute to the brain, particularly memory, language and perception. Manipulation of key aspects of the moving image— point of view (physical, mental, and emotional subjectivity), time, visual and sonic fields, combined with the dynamics and mobility of viewership, add up to nothing less than the exposition of what it means to be sentient.

Promiscuously embracing convention and experimentation, narrative and abstraction, spectacle and intimacy, it's no wonder that video is ubiquitous; and in the hands of artists, still a frontier. Featuring an evocative selection of artists' video works, including a look at historical precedence, we address the theme with criticality, humor, and poignancy.

February 25th, 2016, UCSB IHC series, "The Humanities and the Brain"

Part 1 with Maya Gurantz

Narrative Expectations to Non-Narrative Logics

(image: from Easy Rider, directed by Dennis Hopper)

Woody Vasulka

<http://www.vasulka.org>

Eija-Lisa Ahtila

<http://www.ubu.com/film/ahtila.html>

Maya Gurantz

mayagurantz.com

Kerry Tribe

<http://www.kerrytribe.com>

reference

excerpt from H.M.- <https://vimeo.com/61766094>

excerpt from The LOST Note -<https://vimeo.com/124452288>

Kerry Tribe at the Music and the Brain conference: Stanford Arts Institute,

<https://vimeo.com/21762753>

Part 2 with Laurel Beckman

Consciousness/Altered States/Memory

(image: DARPA research mapping results from a brain implant to treat trauma and PTSD)

Joe Merrell

Suspension of Disbelief (for the love of Frater Perdurabo & K.A.), 2013
a chromadepth 3D video homage to Kenneth Anger and Aleister Crowley
<https://vimeo.com/82739414>

Toby Tatum

Mental Space, excerpt, 2:37
<https://vimeo.com/113935516>

Paul Simon Richards

Tell me your dream. Make it succinct and make it spectacular. Trailer,
<https://vimeo.com/124358483>

Brody Condon

Without Sun (Video), 2008
<http://tmpspace.com/post/102378521466/without-sun-video-2008-video-15-min-named>
Without Sun (Performance)
<https://vimeo.com/73408312>

The title, Without Sun is inspired by Chris Marker's classic experimental documentary, Sans Soleil (1983), a film which examines the fallibility of human memory. For Condon, Marker's piece invokes questions of "faulty and mediated" memory, as well as the theme of travel as a "travelogue [and] destabilization." From here, Condon explains, the "relevance to kids taking inner journeys and recording themselves then posting the vid[eo] online to preserve the moment seemed clear."

Laurel Beckman

Your Special Island (blue), 2014
<https://vimeo.com/101821791>
password 'blue'

reference

www.laurelbeckman.com
Your Special Island (red), 2014
<https://vimeo.com/101821790>
password 'red'
Your Special Island (yellow), 2014
<https://vimeo.com/101821792>
password 'yellow'

A.I.:

(image: Bina48, (Breakthrough Intelligence via Neural Architecture 48)[1], a sentient robot debuted in 2010; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BINA48>)

madcatlady (previously known as Wendy Vanity)

YouTube home page- <https://www.youtube.com/user/wendyvainity>

carfurdream*, 2015, 3:10, excerpt 1min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzkLpIWafGw>

Temporary Channel Video, 6:02

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzRUKCDnTwk>

*based on recent Google research in artificial neural networks targeted to pattern recognition; <http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2015/06/inceptionism-going-deeper-into-neural.html>

Tommy Hartung

RUR trailer, 2014-15, 2:28

<https://vimeo.com/124169307>

R.U.R. is the 1920 science fiction play by the Czech writer Karel Čapek. R.U.R. stands for Rossumovi Univerzální Robot; in English, Rossum's Universal Robots. Introduced the word robot to the English language and science fiction.

The Ascent of Man trailer, 1:36

<https://vimeo.com/81508276>

Language:

(image: words and the brain diagram, Linda Robinson)

Paul Simon Richards

Δ HS.FS. ZWN-BS.NC.BS., 2014

<https://vimeo.com/117753309>, 41 sec excerpt

<https://vimeo.com/122924290>, longer excerpt at 2:23

'Δ HS.FS. ZWN-BS.NC.BS.' consists of fragments of spoken word monologue, animation and music; it is structured loosely on induction methods used in clinical hypnosis, translated into structuralist film technique e.g. repetition, periods of rest and periods of heightened stimulation in image and sound.

reference:

<http://paulsimonrichards.com/home/>

Laure Prouvost

We Know We Are Just Pixels, excerpt, 33sec

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYnpOcBJSNc>

reference

<http://www.laureprouvost.com>- go here to get passwords for videos

<http://www.motinternational.com/artists/laure-prouvost/>

Perception:

(image: Selective attention test (gorilla), Daniel Simons and Christopher Chabris)

Salise Hughes

How to Draw Clouds, 2009, 2:20

<https://vimeo.com/4334653>

Hito Steyerl

How Not to Be Seen: A Fucking Didactic Educational .MOV File, excerpt is 4:07

<http://www.dazeddigital.com/artsandculture/article/19122/1/ica-presents-hito-steyerl>