"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 Loste Note -https://vimeo.com/124452288
Kerry Tribe at the Music and the Brain conference: Stanford Arts Institute, https://vimeo.com/21762753

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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
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