

The Dream Reveals the Waking Day

Sunday, April 6, 2008, 7:30 pm — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Six recent vacillating between radical introspection and cosmological wonder, each inverting interior and exterior worlds, finding intimacy in the cosmos, divinity in the details. Sylvia Schedelbauer's associative collage *Remote Intimacy* presents a detached personal history with the dreadful certainty of a dream. Mark Street's *Alone, Apart* meanders between filmic figure and ground, wresting strangeness from the everyday while Jeanne Liotta's *Eclipse* allows the lunar eclipse to shine through emulsified noise. Abraham Ravett's *Tziporah* and Karen Johannesen's *Light Speed* each meditate on domestic details, hinting at the eternal within the everyday and Peggy Ahwesh's *Warm Objects* uses a heat-sensing camera to look (just) beyond the skin deep. Finally, sound artists Paul Bradley and Maile Colbert's cinematic translation of their multi-channel installation *Transit* is an environmental work exploring spaces between memory and emotion, between inhale and exhale. (Steve Polta)

Light Speed (2007) by Karen Johannesen; Super-8mm, color/b&w, silent, 5 minutes, from the maker

Time as a measure of space. Units of time. Quantum particles inexplicably simultaneous. Flickers of a shadow, syncopated, a beat, rhythm, pattern, repeating. Energy. Single frame, magnetic gravitational force field speeding at the rate of light. Light speed. (Karen Johannesen)

Warm Objects (2007) by Peggy Ahwesh; video, color, silent, 3 minutes, DVD from the maker
"Nothing happens any longer to humans; it is to the image that everything happens."
(Serge Daney)

Remote Intimacy (2007/2008) by Sylvia Schedelbauer; digital video, color, sound, 15 minutes, tape from the maker

Remote Intimacy is a found-footage montage which combines many types of archival documentary footage (including home movies, educational films, and newsreels), with a pseudo-personal narrative, blending various individual recollections with appropriated literary texts. Beginning with an account of a recurring dream, the film is a poetic amplification of memory, and with its associative narrative structure I hope to open up a space for reflection on issues of cultural dislocation. (Sylvia Schedelbauer)

Tzipora (2007) by Abraham Ravett; 16mm, color, silent, 7 minutes, print from maker
"Tziporah" is the Hebrew word for bird. This is another cinematic response to grief and loss. (Abraham Ravett)

Alone, Apart: the dream reveals the waking day (2004) by Mark Street; digital video, color, sound, 7 minutes, tape from the maker

An homage to two ramshackle cities, made up of footage shot while wandering. I meander city streets with a camera, looking to be haunted by unfamiliar vistas. I find solace in the forgotten landscapes, odd voices on a ham radio, shimmering water in a desolate harbor. Later I attack the film, moving it this way and that, trying to squeeze it against its will, wrest strangeness from the everyday. (Mark Street)

Eclipse (2005) by Jeanne Liotta; 16mm, color, sound, 4 minutes, print from Canyon Cinema

A lunar eclipse event of November 2003 observed, documented, and translated via the light-sensitive medium of Kodachrome film. In the 4th Century BCE Aristotle founded The Lyceum, a school for the study of all natural phenomena pursued without the aid of mathematics, which was considered too perfect for application on this imperfect terrestrial sphere. This film then, in the spirit of... (Jeanne Liotta)

Transit by Paul Bradley and Maile Colbert; video, color, sound, 45 minutes, DVD from the makers

Transit is a 45 minute environment created to immerse the viewer in a space just out of recognition and suspending them in this state to better experience and think about the places in-between. In-between sleep and wakefulness. In-between memory and emotion. In-between the inhale and exhale, where snatches of something almost recognizable appear and dissolve, distorted through our altered consciousness.

A multi channel audio / visual installation that in its ideal showing will see the audience surrounded by four large projection screens and eight speakers.

A live performance may also accompany the installation and a single screen, stereo version is available for screenings. (Paul Bradley and Maile Colbert)

the room is dark

the eyes strain to focus

a lack of sight is said to sharpen hearing, invoking a more conscious listening

the sound, somewhere between music and memory

provoking the state right before sleep

when the mind wanders through it's past.

like staring into the dark as a child

the eyes suddenly snap focus

straining to find if what they thought they saw was actually there.

slowly

in and out like breath

images take form around you.

out of the corner of your eye

like night swimming bubbles rising to the surface of a moonlit lake

dreamy figures start to take shape

moving in and out of the space around you

weaving with the sound.