

Tune-Family

a screening of films and videos selected & organized by Jenny Perlin

Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 8:30pm at Mireille Mosler Ltd. 35 East 67th St, 4th floor, New York,

A tune-family is a term from folk music used to designate a “seeming multiplicity of melodies” that may have in fact descended from the same tune. These families, or sets, can be understood as “deep structures” that connect the melodies over time and geography. Films and videos by Rudolph Burckhardt, Paul Chan, David Hammons, Rose Lowder, Marie Menken, Jenny Perlin, and John Pilson.

Program:

Marie Menken

Visual Variations On Noguchi

16mm, black & white, sound, 4:00, 1945

"Poetry of natural sound" score by Lucille Dlugoszewski.

"By use of hand-held, ambulating camera, unusual editing and a startling experimental score by Lucille Dlugozewski, the sculptures of the famous Japanese-American artist, Isamu Noguchi, are given audacious movement in a controversial art-film experiment." -- Cinema 16

Rudolph Burckhardt

Bach's Last Keyboard Fugue

16mm, black & white, sound, 8:30, 1981

Dense, dark, wintry, black and white city scenes accompany the great Johann Sebastian's austere, magnificent, unfinished keyboard fugue, played on the piano by Charles Rose.

John Pilson

Hic et Ubique

DV, color, sound, 1:30, 2004

A woman's daily life is punctuated by the ubiquitous “beeps” of the modern world.

Rose Lowder

Parcelle

16mm, color, silent, 3:00, 1979

The French term *parcelle* refers to a fragment, particle or bit. Composed frame by frame in the camera, the film rests upon the alternate appearance and variable duration of tiny colored squares and circles placed on a black background and inserted in series between plain white or colored images. Although the film may appear conventional on a technical level, conceptually this is not the case given that the work is based on situations where the sense of perception processes images in various time lengths according to the characteristics viewed.

Paul Chan

Untitled Video on Lynne Stewart and Her Conviction, The Law and Poetry

DV, color, sound, 17:30, 2006

On February 10, 2005, Lynne Stewart was convicted of providing material support for a terrorist conspiracy. She is the first lawyer to be convicted of aiding terrorism in the United States. Stewart faces thirty years of prison and will be sentenced in September 2006. *Untitled...* is a video portrait of Stewart. The video focuses on the relationship between the language of poetry and the language of the law. Stewart speaks both languages, and employs poetry as a "knotting point" to connect ideas of beauty and justice for juries and judges alike. The film takes Stewart's understanding of poetry and the law as a departure point to explore the possibilities of a poetics capable of articulating the pressures of terror and justice.

Rose Lowder

Les Tournesols

16mm, color, silent, 2.75 min, 1982

The film presents a field of sunflowers. The focus is adjusted frame by frame in succession according to a series of patterns on particular plants situated in different parts of the field. The diverse configurations placed on separate frames of the film strip appear, when projected successively, simultaneously on the screen. Thus, filmed one after another at different focal lengths, the sunflowers combine during projection to form one spatiotemporal image.

Jenny Perlin:

Storage

16mm transferred to DV, color, sound, 4:40, 2008

The next installment of the *Perlin Papers* series. An intermezzo.

Music: Piano Sonata by Aaron Copland (Movement II, Vivace), performed by Raymond Clarke.

Special thanks to Adam Marks.

David Hammons

Phat Free

Video, color, sound, 7:00, 1995/99

"the less I do the more of an artist I am."

(Hammons, in the catalogue *David Hammons: Phat Free*, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, June 19 - August 14, 2004)

Special thanks: To the artists for their work. And to the Filmmaker's Co-operative, Candice Madey, M.M. Serra, Video Data Bank, & Zwirner & Wirth.