Coffee Blog, by Jay Dedman

Marking Time: Video Blogging as Art Practice

Call for Papers
Abstract Deadline: September 30th, 2015
Paper Deadline: January 15th, 2016

Marking Time: Video Blogging as Art Practice
The CMDC Digital Publishing Initiative at Washington State University Vancouver invites scholars to contribute papers in response to a curated exhibition of expressive online video. The exhibition highlights the ways in which early video blogging (from 2001-2009) spawned unique forms of networked cinema, everyday art practice and informal documentary, as well as distribution methods that would later disrupt video and cinema conventions and practices.

Publication/Exhibition
Co-edited by Will Luers and Adrian Miles, Marking Time: Video Blogging as Art Practice will be published on the web as a curated exhibition of videos and related scholarly papers. There will also be versions of the text distributed for mobile devices and print-on-demand. The videos will be screened and exhibited in multiple venues.

Context
Is a Vine feed a video blog? In 2015, video blogging as a term is complicated, if not redundant. In a material sense, video blogging is a specific term. Digital video is materially defined by codified file formats, codecs and players. Blogging is similarly defined by web coding, content management systems, RSS feeds, links, commenting and a range of technical and social protocols. However, sharing video to networks has become so common, and happens across so many commercial platforms, that any reference to video blogging as a distinct cultural form now sounds old-fashioned. Just as the term "folk art", adopted as a genre of the commercial art market, has embedded itself in contradictory notions of collective, egalitarian, non-normative and non-commercial forms of expression, video blogging as a distinct form of non-commercial, networked expression can get lost in the vast networks of monetized media. In contrast to the commercial and corporate behemoth of services such as YouTube, the early zeitgeist of many video bloggers was to artfully and publicly document the passage of time within their own life-worlds. This original phenomena of video blogging, especially in its nascent forms, brought

together cinematic and televisual expression, personal journaling and digital network dynamics into a unique and specific ecosystem of practice, argument, and expression.

The Online Exhibition:
couch mode: https://vimeo.com/couchmode/channels/927133/sort:preset/129732153
searchable/ database mode: http://vimeopro.com/user22489560/markingtime

The videos in the exhibition magnify the creative energy, expressive freedom and formal diversity of personal networked cinema in its earliest stages. Artists were selected based on their experimentation with video blogging as a communal space for a private art practice, rather than on standards of media professionalism. The videos are bold experiments in form, but applied to and constrained by the raw material of everyday, networked life. Many of the videos are of technically "poor quality" due to bandwidth limitations at the time, but this constraint is celebrated. Low-res video, as a stand-in for raw experience, is edited into mini cinematic narratives, haikus and lyrical fragments. Some of the videos are just the unedited data of moments captured. Some are remixed, glitched, and processed for aesthetic effect. The collection as a whole documents artistic responses to a media environment made possible by the internet and affordable, prosumer video equipment.

Submissions and author guidelines:
Paper topics should be proposed and eventually written with the online video exhibition as a common reference point, but papers do not have to explicitly discuss the videos.

Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- video poetics
- diary film
- nonfiction video
- personal cinema
- soft video
- digital cinema
- networked culture and aesthetics
- social media art
- low-fi expression (zine, glitch and punk aesthetics)

Please send a 250 word abstract in either Text, RTF, Word or PDF formats to Will Luers (wluers@gmail.com).

The DEADLINE for abstract submissions is **September 30th, 2015.** Submitters will be informed by mid-November 2015.

Final Papers will be due **January 15th, 2016**.

For more information, please contact Will Luers (wluers@gmail.com).
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Nouspace Publications: http://www.dtc-wsuv.org/cmdc/nouspace-pub/
Creative Media & Digital Culture: http://www.dtc-wsuv.org/cmdc/