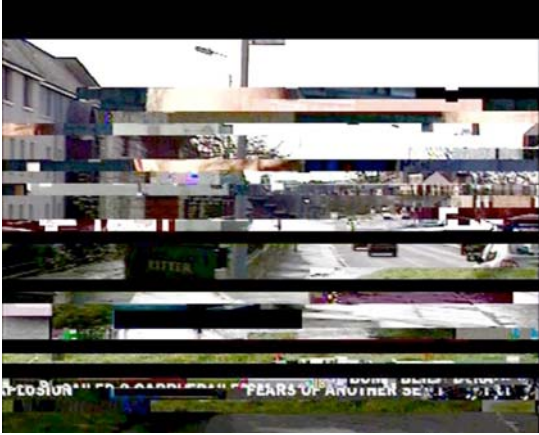


NEW LANDS

Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th June 2007

BFI Southbank



The War on Television
– Steven Ball (2004)



Great American Desert
– Stephen Connolly (2006)

**STEVEN BALL, STEPHEN CONNOLLY, GRAHAM GUSSIN,
ANJA KIRSCHNER, HILARY KOOB-SASSEN,
RICHARD LINKLATER, URIEL ORLOW, MATTHEW NOEL-TOD**

A weekend programme of new and recent features, shorts, installations and performance inspired by Charles Fort's visionary text, *New Lands*.

It is the "aftermath of war, as in the year 1492 [, there are] readjustments; crowded and restless populations, revolts against limitations, intolerable restrictions against emigrations' but 'I have data upon data upon data of new lands that are not far away. I hold out expectations and the materials of new hopes and new despairs and new triumphs and new tragedies. . . . Sounds have been heard in the sky. They have been heard, and it is not possible to destroy the records of them. In their repetitions and regularities of series and intervals, we shall recognize perhaps interpretable language."

New Lands, Charles Fort, 1923

Fort takes a long-term view of history and draws comparisons between different moments spread over hundreds of years and locates his hopes for escaping the problems of his time, and by inference, moments doomed to repeat themselves, in strange landscapes in the sky. In his broken language, he paradoxically suggests that these landscapes are at once tangible and real but also mystical and identifiable only through faith.

The works presented over this weekend share a similar relationship to landscape exploring a line between the tangible and the perceptual or allegorical. They also attempt to grapple with the repressed histories and elusive messages around us today, many of which concern the moving image itself.

William Fowler

Curator of Artists' Moving Image, BFI National Archive

NEW LANDS

Saturday 16th June-

Studio 12:00 – 17:00

New Lands Installation: (Free)

AMBIENT HORROR (DAY OF THE DEAD FIFTEEN LAYERS)

UK 2006 Graham Gussin 100mins looped

Reflecting Gussin's frequent dialogue between the structural and the sublime, this striking aesthetic experience, here premiered, looks like a breathing Turin Shroud. The cinema screen acts as a boundary onto a world of ghostly lost souls, trapped, trying to penetrate or find their way out of the layered images of *Day of the Dead* in which they find themselves caught.



Ambient Horror
(Day of the Dead Fifteen Layers)
- Graham Gussin (2006)



Obcy Aktorzy / Foreign Actors
- Matthew Noel-Tod (2006)

NFT3 15:50

OBCY AKTORZY / FOREIGN ACTORS

UK 2006 Matthew Noel-Tod 46mins

Video, Polish dialogue with English subtitles

Using Polish actors, Noel-Tod re-presents a series of moments from the Polish films – *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958), *Man of Iron* (1981), *Dekalog 4* (1988) and *Sequence of Feelings* (1993) - and through their fractured recasting and combination creates a new broken world where history and location, both in and outside the cinema, form dialogues with politics and perception.

-Introduced by Matthew Noel-Tod

NFT3 18:00

WAKING LIFE

USA 2001 Richard Linklater 99mins

Following the on-going wonderings and wanderings of a young man, *Waking Life* uses both its form (rotoscope animation) and the dialogue of its characters to reflect back on itself and consider free will and distinctions between appearance and reality. Along the way it takes in quotes from the Situationists (amongst others) and a slew of eccentric characters last seen in Linklater's *Slacker*.

NEW LANDS

Sunday 17th June-

Studio 12:30 – 14:30

New Lands Installation: (Free)

THE VISITOR + THE GUIDE, looped alternately

THE VISITOR

UK 2007 Uriel Orlow 16mins

This photo-essay documents Orlow's audience with Oba Erediauwa, the current king of Benin, and his court. Recounted by a local narrator, communication is somewhat obscure, highlighting differences in their cultural and historical positions, yet remains centred on the Benin Bronzes, collective memory and the demand for restitution.

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THE GUIDE

UK 2007 Uriel Orlow 16mins

The camera trails said guide on a tour through the labyrinthine complex of Ogiamen's palace in Benin City, presenting ruptured dialogues between seeing and understanding, tradition and the contemporary. The extraordinary building was constructed in the 12th century and is one of only a handful of houses that survived the British punitive expedition of 1897, and remains inhabited to this day.



Paraculture/Future Garden Structure
- Hilary Koob-Sassen (2005)



The Visitor – Uriel Orlow (2007)

Studio 15:00

New Lands Performance:

NEW VERNACULAR

Hilary Koob-Sassen

In a performance especially put together for *New Lands*, Hilary Koob-Sassen will perform a 3-name phrase: *The Venus of Filletville* (an anatomy of live), *Bridge to Trellis Formation* (a morphology of culture), and *Traction on Time* (a figure/ground transition), using audio-visual technological means and song.

NEW LANDS

Sunday 17th June cont. -

NFT3 16:15

New Lands Short Films:

GREAT AMERICAN DESERT

UK 2006 Stephen Connolly 19mins

In this new film, the camera observes a scrubby Western Arizona desert seasonally occupied by itinerant citizens. Other elements emerge in juxtaposition, including contemporary recordings of military procedures and an account of the men who carried out the Hiroshima bombing.

THE WAR ON TELEVISION

UK 2004 Steven Ball 6mins

News images from a distant conflict in Iraq, fractured from their source, are further digitally attacked and broken to create some new perceptual, almost existential nothingness.

POLLY II – PLAN FOR A REVOLUTION IN DOCKLANDS

UK 2006 Anja Kirschner 25mins

In this sci-fi tale of a contemporary but lawless and flooded East End of London, self-elected saviours of the people become seekers of self-interest, and pirates, who traverse the flooded waters around Canary Wharf, offer chances of liberation.

PARACULTURE/FUTURE GARDEN STRUCTURE

UK 2005 Hilary Koob-Sassen 13mins

Song and images of organic matter mix to tell the story of how we make and interpret the world but also to propose a new model for the organization of the economy.



Polly II - Plan For a Revolution in Docklands
- Anja Kirschner (2006)



Waking Life - Richard Linklater (2001)

Booking information:

Individual screening programmes: £5, concs £4

Performance: £5, concs £4

Installations: Free

Weekend ticket available for all paid screenings:

£19, concs £14

BFI members pay £1 less on each ticket

Box Office: 020 7928 3232

<https://tickets.bfi.org.uk/welcome.asp>

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