

METALEPSIS (ON CENSORSHIP) Performance written by Al Razutis 1986

-first performed at The Funnel, Dec. 19, 1986

Performer, in opaque glasses and trenchcoat ascends stairs to platform where he (during the course of the performance) takes film strips from a bucket and places them on the overhead projector, rearranges the composition, burns holes in the frames, and finally turns on the overhead projector. The text is contained on an audio cassette which the performer is listening to as he 'lip syncs' and speaks his version of the text. The performance is terminated when an assistant unplugs the overhead projector.

TEXT

A FILM CAN BE DISCOVERED BY A PROSECUTOR
UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR
ARTIST
PROFESSOR
POET
DILETANTE
CRITIC
PERVERT
MILITANT
OR ANYONE...
IN A GARBAGE CAN...FOUND...FOOTAGE...IN A GARBAGE CAN...
A DISCOVERY OF THAT WHICH HAS BEEN LOST
SINCE THE DAY THEY RAIDED
THE CANADIAN IMAGES FESTIVAL
PETERBOROUGH
BEFORE THEY RAIDED A-SPACE
BEFORE THEY PLAYED LETS MAKE A DEAL WITH THE FUNNEL
BEFORE THEY PROSECUTED
SEIZED
DESTROYED...NOW FOUND
AT(THE PACIFIC CINE CENTRE)
A FILM
WHICH MEANS "MOVING PICTURE FILM 16 MILLIMITERS OR MORE
IN WIDTH
FOUND WITH A PROJECTOR
WHICH MEANS "

"ANY TYPE OF MACHINE
USED FOR THE PROJECTION OF MOVING PICTURES"
WHICH MEANS ANYTHING
INCLUDING SLIDES OF KEN AND BARBIE FUCKING
TO A SELECT AUDIENCE
ANALYSIS GROUP
AT THE LOCAL IN FOCUS CENTRE
FUCKING POLITICS
WHICH MEANS ANYTHING OR NOTHING
UNTIL IT IS SCREENED IN AN ART
GALLERY
PARALLEL GALLERY
CINEMATHEQUE....
I DEMAND SAYS A FILMMAKER
THE RIGHT TO MASTURBATE ON FILM
THIS FILM
EVEN IF IT IS SIMULATED
ENTRAILS
DEMAND GRANTED SAYS THE BOARD,
BUT IT MUST BE
OFF SCREEN
AND IT MUST HAVE A TITLE
FOR AS THE POPE SAYS "CULTURE DEMONSTRATES
AN EXPLICIT TENDENCY TO COVER THE NUDITY OF THE
HUMAN BODY
SO PLEASE OFF SCREEN
AND A TITLE
"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT A TITLE ON THIS TYPE OF FILM" SAYS
THE FILMMAKER NOW A THEORIST AND CURATOR
ITS ONLY A FEW SECONDS LONG "IT IS THE NEGATIVE
OF A THOUGHT THAT PASSES THROUGH THE MIND...
AN AFTER IMAGE OR SUBLIMINAL THOUGHT...TO SET IT UP WITH
A TITLE WOULD BE COMPLETELY INAPROPRIATE" HE SAYS
SCREENING RULED ILLEGAL, SAYS THE BOARD
FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS...
"IT IS ART" SAYS THE ARTIST...CANT YOU MAKE OUT THE
EXPLICIT CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS
AND MODERNISM

THE BLACK SQUARE
ALLEGORICAL AMBIGUITY...PURITY OF FORM
REDUCTION TO ESSENCES
ART FOR ART SAKE
"IT IS ART" SAYT THE ARTIST...NOW JOINED BY OTHER
ARTISTS
DESERVING SPECIAL EXEMPTION...STATUS...REPUTATION...
EXEMPTION...FROM THE SOCIAL...
GETTING MORE FAMOUS WITH EVERY STORY...EVERY PETITION...
EVEN OCTOBER SUPPORTS RAMEAU'S NEPHEW...
IT IS ART
GRANTED SAYS THE BOARD, BUT ONLY ONCE
AND THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO MASTURBATE OFF SCREEN
AND BECOME FAMOUS...
"IF THEY DON'T SHOW MY CONFUSED WORK"
SAYS ANOTHER ARTIST, I WILL SUE THE GALLERY
THE GALLERY DIRECTOR, FOR DEFAMATION OF
CHARACTER, FOR IMPAIRING MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOR LOSS OF STATURE AND EARNING POWER, FOR LOSS OF FAME...
I WILL SUE THEM FOR CENSORSHIP
AND THE WHOLE BORED...WHOLE...BORED...
ARTISTE CROWD JUMPS ON THE BANDWAGON
FOR A LITTLE ACTION...YEAH...LETS ALL SUE
THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY...FOR A LITTLE MORE FAME...
LETS EVEN SIT ON THEIR BOARD SO THEY BUY
OUR WORK...AS ART...AND IF THEY DONT...
ITS CENSORSHIP!"
SO ME...IVE GOT A FILM TOO...ITS DEFINITELY MODERNIST...
EXPRESSIONIST...COLLAGE...CONCEPTUAL...
IT DOESNT HAVE A TITLE...AND IT IS POTENTIALLY CONFUSED...
BUT IT IS ART...I AM AN ARTIST...I DEMAND...
IT IS THE NEGATIVE OF A THOUGHT
THAT PASSES THROUGH THE MIND
AN AFTER IMAGE
A SUBLIMINAL THOUGHT...
IF PRESSED, I CONFESS IT DEALS WITH BONDAGE...

IT MAY EVEN DEAL WITH MASTURBATION
EJACULATION
I DONT KNOW...BUT BONDAGE...
I DEMAND PROTECTION...EXEMPTION...STATUS....
PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS
WILL BE PUNISHIBLE BY UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON
UNDER LEGISLATION TABLED TODAY
IN THE COMMONS BY JUSTICE MINISTER HNATYSHYN
MY FILM IS RADICAL...FORM...
ITS IMPLIED...CONTENT...
FORGIVE ME FATHER I TRANSGRESS...
GIVE ME A BREAK...AND AN EXEMPTION...I WILL
TRY TO BE LESS OPAQUE...
PERHAPS MORE POETIC...MYSTICAL..INNOCUOUS...

INTERRUPTION: A GREAT MANY PEOPLE TODAY AGREE THAT NO REVOLUTIONARY
STRUGGLE IS REALLY POSSIBLE ANY LONGER THAT DOES
NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO THE LIBERATION OF DESIRE!

I OF COURSE AM ON THE SIDE OF ALL LIBERATIONS, DID YOU SAY
PSYCHOANALYSIS? ILL BE ON THAT SIDE AS WELL.

INTERRUPTION: PSYCHOANALYSIS IS REPRESSIVE!

THEN I AM ON THE SIDE OF DECONSTRUCTION

INTERRUPTION: THIS IS NOT DECONSTRUCTION BUT PARODY

THEN I AM ON THE SIDE OF POSTMODERNISM

INTERRUPTION: WHICH IS NOTHING BUT A REHASH OF OLD MODERNIST TRICKS

THEN I AM ON YOUR SIDE

INTERRUPTION: WHAT SIDE IS THAT?

NO ANS