

Carl Elsaesser: Ambient Ecologies

The 3rd Annual Festival of Cinematic & Audio Visual Experimentation (CAVE3)

Cellular Cinema

Bryant Lake Bowl Theater

9:30pm, January 4, 2019

Exercises in Resistance

To be played in the background of whatever you are doing. Keep it small, and/or keep it behind several tabs. Ignore it while watching something else in bed. Return to it. Let it do its thing. Don't pay it much attention. Don't focus on it. Let it just go.

Exercises in Looking

One camera is trained on the artist's face while the other is trained on what the artist is looking at. Exercises in Looking documents a series of banal and profound internal landscapes, emotions and relations which may or may not be captured on screen despite being filmed.

The Ambient Strip Mall

Economic ambience, much like the air we breathe, informs and inscribes our potential. It's the length of time it takes to drive to work because of the neighborhood you can afford to live in, it's the stores you shop at on the drive home, and it's the amount of natural light you receive in your home. I'm interested in using duration, framing, light and shadows to think through, document and converse with these ambient economic geographies in the state of Maine.

Six Controlled Vocabularies

Six Controlled Vocabularies is a work in progress performance lecture. It's a letter to my nephew. Using video diaries of a family in Maine that I found off of craigslist and sent cameras to, I then hired professional actors to elaborate on scenes and emotions. Neither the boy nor the performed boy are my nephew, but they serve as beautiful forms to speak towards representational ethics and moralities that a I want to speak of.

File Management

For the last several years I've been conducting interviews with video artists about their file management strategies. I've been working towards an article on the fascinatingly ambient infrastructure of information storage. I'll read an excerpt from the article and show a couple examples.