

ASSIGNMENT – COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDITING

Today in class and as your assignment for next week you will work with footage from Robert Bresson's film "Pickpocket". By using existing footage rather than having to conceptualize and shoot your own and by several other restrictions on your process the focus of the project becomes on editing and editing alone.

The project rules:

1. Only editing to put together your piece – no effects, transitions, etc.
2. No outside footage, though you can repeat the footage you have as many times as you need
3. Cheating is always encouraged: if you want half-speed footage cut out every other frame

This should *not* be a narrative "movie", but can be an artistic exploration that brings out something new. In other words, create something that flows through time but doesn't tell a literal story. Look for something you find interesting in the footage you were given (some common connection, a shot you particularly like, etc) and really dig into it.

In many cases, making art with limitations can be more fertile than when you have every option. Take these limitations and make something you are really excited about. Though this process you will be surprised how much you can do with so little, and at the same time get a deep understanding of what Bresson is up to: a great opportunity to explore the work of a filmmaker.

REMEMBER:

Editing isn't just the piecing together of images. Sound, timing, repetition, flow – these things also play a role in editing and can in fact be more important than what you see. Think about Bresson; do you cut before or after someone has gone through a door? What about just before or during a blink, the turn of a head? Sometimes a single frame can completely change the psychological character of a piece.

Editing is an art and one that takes a lifetime to really master. That said, think about how you can control the speed and flow of the video through your edits. More edits may make a piece feel faster, but a single well-timed edit may have the same effect.

The assignment requirements:

1. The video you create must be at least 2 minutes long. You are allowed to repeat clips.
2. Render the video if needed.
3. Export your project as a QuickTime .mov file, upload it to the server.
(to export go to File, Export, QuickTime Movie... and move the resulting file to the server)
4. This project is due at the beginning of the next class.

Server access (this information and a pdf of this assignment are also at jeffreythompson.org/video)

Address: auset.Montclair.edu
Username: MMVLABJT
Password: student

Next week: cameras and shooting, capturing video into FinalCut

If you have your own camera, please bring it to class – if not, no sweat. There will be cameras for you to use. You will also need DV tapes for next week's assignment.