ArtHist.net

Spectator 26.2 (Spring 2006)

Dan Leopard

Call for Papers

Ephemeral Cinema, Invisible Media: Sound and Image at the Edge of Awareness

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This issue of Spectator will explore media that hover at the intersection of the fleeting and the

disposable. We are soliciting articles, essays, interviews, ethnographies (textual and visual), and

short reviews that examine from historical, political, economic, and cultural perspectives trash and

exploitation cinema, youth and minority media production, art film and video, ultra low budget

production, ambient media and other production forms that are for the most part ignored or excluded

from the ecology of mainstream and academic media discourse. In short, this issue will focus on

media that are either rendered invisible by virtue of their difference from Hollywood movies and

network-cable television or are momentarily seen by viewers and then for the most part forgotten.

Furthermore many of these discarded cultural forms have been recently "discovered" or rediscovered

by scholars and critics and are now moving toward institutional consecration.

How these media

respond to this increasing legitimization and the implication this has for dominant media forms is

also open for examination.

Of course, there is a considerable amount of writing over the past two hundred years that has

celebrated the discarded and the degraded as a shadow to that which is considered ennobled or

transcendent. It has been pointed out by commentators, Foucault and Derrida most famously, that this

shadow is intrinsically linked to the success of that which dominates.

This discourse of shadow and light – at issue a politics of absence and presence – will serve as a

point of departure from which to acknowledge and analyze media that are either ignored for reasons

of aesthetic elitism and "good taste" or for reasons of invisibility due to ubiquity. In addition,

many of these shadow media forms have constituent groups – fans, bank managers, teenagers – that

consume and produce them and these specific cultural groupings may be explored as well.

Manuscripts submitted for consideration should look toward understanding why some media forms strike

the eye and why some merely glance aside.

Deadline for Submission: December 1, 2005

Spectator is a biannual publication of the Division of Critical Studies at the School of

Cinema-Television, University of Southern California. Manuscripts that address the above topic are

now invited for submission:

Topics may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

Histories of the Ephemeral and the Invisible

Ethnographies of the Ephemeral and the Invisible

Cultures of Trash, Camp, Cult, and Exploitation

Auteurs of the Ephemeral (Derek Jarman, Andy Warhol, Doris Wishman and many others)

Trash Genres

Snapshots and Memory

Home Movies & Baby Pictures

Comic Books and Strips (Smiling Jack, Brenda Starr, Blackhawk, Sugar and Spice, etc.)

Public Screens: Bank Machines, Sports Bars, Information Kiosks

Ambient Sound and Image

Recycled Media

Indigenous Media

Community and Public Access Television

Movies by Kids, Tots, and Teens

Napkin Doodles

Lost Websites, Movies, and TV

Misremembered Media

Scratched 78rpm Records

Answering Machine Messages

Manuscripts to be considered for publication should be sent to:

Dan Leopard, Editor Spectator 1222 Hi Point Street Los Angeles, CA 90035-2612 Attn: Spectator Submission leopard@usc.edu

One hard copy manuscript should be submitted as well as a copy on disk.

Submissions can also be

e-mailed directly. Manuscripts should include the title of the contribution and the name of the

author (or authors), as well as the postal address, e-mail address, and phone numbers for the author

who will work with the editor on any revisions. All pages should be numbered consecutively.

Contributions should be no more than 5,000 words in length. Submissions should also include an

abstract and a brief biographic description of the author. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

Articles submitted to Spectator should not be under consideration by any other journal.

Reviews are welcome and may vary in length from 300 to 1,000 words. For book reviews, please include

the full title of the book, retail price, and ISBN at the beginning of the review. For media

reviews, please include full title, creative credits, and release date at the beginning of the review.

Electronic Submissions and Formatting. Authors should send copies of their work via e-mail as

electronic attachments. Please keep backup files of all materials. Files should be in Microsoft Word

formatted for PC or Mac depending on the author's preference. Endnotes should conform to the Chicago

Manual of Style.

Upon acceptance, a format guideline will be forwarded to all contributors as to image and text requirements.

Current Board for Spectator

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