JOURNÉE D'ÉTUDE « AUTOFILMAGE(S) » : OLIVIER ASSELIN



DIRECTOR
Vidéographe

DURATION
43:51

YEAR
2018

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
French

CATEGORY
Documentary
Video recording

SERIE
Autofilmage(s)

DESCRIPTION
The one-way mirror: narcissism and the closed-circuit surveillance network

In her well-known essay, 'Video: The Aesthetics of Narcissism' (1976), Rosalind Krauss notes the strange meeting of formal and psychological attributes in video art – instant feedback and the centrality of the human body – that lend the device the quality of a mirror. Olivier Asselin develops two observations: that instant feedback applies only to live broadcasting and that it is not really specific to video. It was already central to the telephone, radio and television, and would soon become central to the Web; during the same era instant feedback found another use, neither domestic nor artistic, as with the Portapak, but corporate, with closed circuit television (CCTV). Taking two cases as a departure point – one taken from 1970s video art and the other from the use of the webcam in contemporary social networks – we look at ways in which narcissism and surveillance come together.

Filmed on Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Université de Montréal.

SHOOTING FORMAT
HD

KEYWORDS
Video Art, Surveillance, Self-Representation, Rosalind Krauss, web

THEMES
Art and culture