

Nuisance in collaboration with Brighton Cinematheque presents CRITICAL POSITIONS 2; a festival of films exploring the ideas of cultural and social theorists and filmmakers who have critiqued and influenced how we view and act in the modern world.

The themes that the films address include the work of psychoanalytical theorist Slavoj Zizek, philosopher Martin Heidegger, social scientist Pierre Bourdieu and political theorist Antonio Negri, the hidden history of the internet, the birth of the 2nd wave Feminist movement, Surrealist documentary and much more...

CRITICAL POSITIONS 2 will take place in June 2006 at the Friends Meeting House in Brighton.

Friday 16th June at 8pm

Zizek!

Astra Taylor USA 2005 digital 71 min.

The author of works on subjects as wide-ranging as Alfred Hitchcock, 9/11, opera, Christianity, Lenin and David Lynch, Slavoj Zizek is one of the most important - and provocative - cultural theorists working today. Taylor's debut documentary trails the Slovenian philosopher as he traverses the globe, racing from packed New York City lecture halls, through the streets of Buenos Aires, and stopping off at home in Ljubljana. In transit, Zizek obsessively unravels the invisible workings of ideology according to his unique blend of Lacanian psychoanalysis, Marxism, and pop culture critique. Erudite and immensely entertaining - a portrait of cultural theorist as spectacle showman. This is an advanced preview ahead of its UK release. Thanks to Astra Taylor and the New York Documentary Campaign for this screening.

Saturday 17th June at 6.30pm

The Universal Clock

Geoff Bowie Canada 2001 video 76 min.

The Universal Clock explores the assumption that the contemporary documentary has become a homogenized, customised commodity - its packaged, streamlined images and sounds concerned less with revealing reality than concealing it. Bowie finds an opposition to this mass media 'monoform' in the work of filmmaker Peter Watkins whose unique cinematic approach, sometimes described as documentary reconstruction, is determined by the opinions and actions of his films participants. Bowie follows and interviews Watkins as he makes his most recent work 'The Commune (Paris 1871)', an epic six-hour re-imagining of the 19th century uprising against Napoleon III by the

Communards. Critical Positions will host a special screening of The Commune in late summer.

Saturday 17th June at 8.30pm

Negri: A Revolt That Never Ends

Alexandra Wertz / Andreas Pichler Germany 2004 digital 52min
English subtitles.

A profile of the writer, philosopher and alleged ideologue of the Italian Red Brigades - Antonio Negri has been at the forefront of radical thought in Italy for decades. 'Revolt' traces Negri's life and ideas from his early involvement in 'Autonomia' and the left-wing workers movements of the 1960s and 1970s, through to his imprisonment, exile, and subsequent collaboration with Deleuze and Guattari. Now internationally renown as the co-author of 'Empire', Negri is a leading spokesman of the anti-globalization movement. The film features recent interviews conducted following his release from confinement, commentary from his co-author Michael Hardt, and rare archival footage of workers strikes, street confrontations and the political repression that followed. 'Crackles with unexpected twists and is braced by lucid excurses on Negri's political theories... Great!' - Cineaste

Sunday 18th June at 2pm

Imagining Reality

From three of cinema's greatest visual poets, a programme of rarely screened films that challenge the codes of documentary realism and explore the use of film as a powerful social critique.

Hotel des Invalides (Dir Georges Franju France 1951 16mm 23 min subtitles).

A tour of Paris's 'Hotel Des Invalides', a military museum that also housed a retirement home for war veterans. Commissioned as a filmic celebration, instead it develops into a lyrical, scathing attack on the emblems of national pride and military glory.

A Propos de Nice (Jean Vigo France 1930 digital 26 min)

Vigo's declared his film 'the last twitchings of a society that rejects its own responsibilities'. Shot with a concealed camera over several months, Vigo captures the decadent rich and urban poor on the streets of Nice.

Land Without Bread (Luis Bunuel Spain 1932 digital 27 min English narration). Bunuel's only non-fiction film is an uncompromising portrayal of the lives of peasants in one Spain's most desolate regions.

Shot from the radical perspective of the Spanish surrealists, Bunuel implicates the documentary genre itself in the suffering it depicts.

Sunday 18th June at 4pm

The Net

Lutz Dammbeck Germany 2004 digital 110 min

A complex, thought provoking exploration of the hidden history of the internet and its parallel social philosophies. Award winning filmmaker Dammbeck combines investigative journalism and travelogue to trace the contrasting counter-cultural responses to the technological revolution. From early pioneers of media art like Marshall McLuhan and Nam Jun Paik through to hippy idealists like Tim Leary and Ken Kesey, to an in depth investigation of the ultimate opponent of technological control Ted Kaczynski - the Unabomber. Dammbeck's conceptual quest links these multiple nodes of cultural and political thought revealing an unsettling matrix of revolutionary advances, coincidences, and conspiracies. 'An intellectual roller coaster ride through art, technology, philosophy, politics, psychology and sociology.' Osnabrück Media Arts Festival.

Sunday 18th June at 7pm

The Ister

David Barison+Daniel Ross Australia digital 189 min.

The Ister is a remarkable 3000km journey to the heart of Europe, from the mouth of the Danube river in Romania, to its source in the German Black Forest. It forms a compelling philosophical investigation into the nature of being and time that takes as its starting point the 1942 lectures of German philosopher Martin Heidegger and the poetry of Friedrich Holderlin. Though Heidegger swore allegiance to the National Socialists in 1933, his work has inspired some of the most remarkable thinkers and artists working today. As the voyage progresses four of these - Philippe Lacoue Labarthe, Jean-Luc Nancy, Bernard Stiegler and the filmmaker Hans-Jürgen Syberberg - evaluate Heidegger's pivotal role in contemporary thought and attempt to unravel the extraordinary past and future of 'the west'. 'An impressive philosophical exercise and a meditative work of cinematic beauty.' Jamie Russell/BBC.

Wednesday 21st June at 6pm

Argument

Anthony McCall+Andrew Tyndall USA 1978 84 min.

A legendary and provocative essay film first screened at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 1978, and almost unseen for the last twenty years. Artist film and video distributor LUX has now released a

new high definition restoration, and Argument's trenchant analysis of media ideology seems more pertinent than ever.

Three male voices dissect one edition of The New York Times through a series of locked-off shots, revealing the prejudice and latent content of news and advertisements, reading images as texts and presenting text as an image. Fashion photographs are used as a starting point for a political investigation of news, advertising, and images of masculinity - while at the same time, the filmmakers reflect on their own position and the possibility of radical film practice. Influenced by both the American and European avant-gardes, notably Godard and Hollis Frampton, 'Argument' is stylistically beautiful and relentless in its enquiry. Lux's 'Argument: Book' will also be available.

Wednesday 21st at 8pm

Sociology is a Martial Art

Pierre Carles France 2002 video 146 min subtitled.

A rigorous, compelling, award winning portrait of the life and work of the late Pierre Bourdieu, regarded by many as one of France's most influential thinkers and prominent social activists. Bourdieu's work explored the complex correlations between cultural codes and the hierarchies of class and power - he saw sociology not simply as an academic ritual but as a tool for political action. Filmed over three years, Carles' camera follows Bourdieu as he lectures, attends political rallies, travels, meets with his students, staff, and research team in Paris, and includes Bourdieu in conversation with Günter Grass.

'Sociology...' became a huge hit in France shortly before Bourdieu's death in 2002. "Compelling! Truly moving." Cineaste 'Perhaps the definitive memorial to Bourdieu' Leonardo Review

Thursday 22nd June at 6pm

Images of the World and the Inscription of War

Harun Farocki Germany 1988 16mm 75 min subtitles.

What can the camera capture that the eye cannot see? Filmmaker and theorist Harun Farocki is a leading montage-based film essayist whose work attempts to disclose the structures behind institutional power and the ideologies embedded in visual communication. In this, his most celebrated film, a series of aerial photographs of Auschwitz inadvertently taken by the US airforce in 1944 and rediscovered in a CIA archive 30 years later, serve as the basis for a dazzling examination of 100 years of image making.

'There is not a wasted frame in 75 minutes...' NY Times

Thursday 22nd June at 8pm

Town Bloody Hall

Chris Hegedus/D A Pennebaker USA 1979 16mm 88 min.

A raucous, rough-edged and riotously funny record of the now legendary debate on feminism held in New York in 1971, organised in response to the furore surrounding Norman Mailer's inflammatory article 'The Prisoner of Sex'. Mailer himself chaired the discussion, sharing the podium with four women representing different strands of feminism; journalist and lesbian spokeswoman Jill Johnston, critic Diana Trilling, author Germaine Greer and president of N.O.W Jacqueline Cebellos. Roving, zooming camerawork intimately captures the volatile atmosphere and impassioned reactions of both jury and audience. An invaluable historical artefact, and a distillation of the political currents then raging in the USA and far beyond.