



CHAPTER ONE

ISLAND

A FILM BY MARK MADEL

Synopsis

“Island (Chapter 1)” is my first short film piece, after years of creating interactive electronic sculpture and software. It continues the exploration of time present in much of my work, and is visually influenced by the work of my old friend and colleague, Pat O’Neill (*“Water and Power”* 1984).



Still

The film is composed entirely of shots taken through the various windows of my studio over the span of 5 years, with shots of myself engaged in everyday activities inside (dressing, sleeping, reading, eating, etc.), as well as other hidden memories, composited surreptitiously into the outside world.



Production still revealing composited material shot inside the studio

The title of the piece reflects not only the literal island I've been living on for 30+ years, but also the perception of time passing just outside the places we live and work - and the way our experience of it both encircles and affects our own internal state and sense of time, and how our lives are projected onto it.

After shooting and accumulating the raw footage, I spent months searching for the perfect music to use, eventually locating two compositions by the German composer Nils Frahm (the film is divided into two movements, with time moving faster and becoming more manipulated and multilayered as the film progresses through the second song). I then spent several months selecting footage and compositing and editing the piece to achieve the symbiosis between moving images, time, and sound that I had envisioned.



Still of scene with multiple composited timelines (i.e. morning, afternoon, night)

The work is the first chapter of a planned trilogy of 10 minute films examining time at three different focal points (moving progressively inward): 'Island' = outside one's home; "Cave" = inside one's home; 'Fortress' = inside one's mind.

Credits

Direction, cinematography, and editing by Mark Madel

Music written and performed by Nils Frahm

"Improvisation for Coughs and a Cell Phone"
"Hammers"

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