Title: Bathing

Date: 1977

Media: Video (color, sound); 4:25 min.

Video Link: https://vimeo.com/111162062

Description:

A woman is lying in a bathtub with her eyes closed. In the background the splashing from a running tap can be heard. The camera pans across the woman’s body to dwell on her face,
which just protrudes above the surface of the water. The woman runs her hands through her
ea hair. The movement is frozen and for a few seconds remains arrested on the monitor as a
tonally alienated, black-bordered image. Then the camera continues with its observation. The
woman begins to wash her hair with shampoo. Again the movement is halted. She continues
with her hair washing, puts her head underwater a few times, and finally leans forward to
remove the rest of the shampoo from her hair. This sequence is repeatedly interrupted through
freezing the moving image at particularly ‘picturesque’ moments. While the protagonist’s
natural and relaxed-seeming movements are transformed into extremely light, pastel color
sequences, the darker colored, arrested images reflect well-known motifs from art history,
familiar to us especially from Impressionist painting.

In Bathing, as in his Mirror Road, Windows and Objects with Destinations, Hill uses the camera
and image processing devices to explore the malleability of electronic colors and image density.

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**Spoken Text:**

**Bibliography:**

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1978, unpaginated.

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*Oeuvres vidéo de Gary Hill en sa présence.* Center for Media Art. Program notes. Paris:
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Furlong, Lucinda. "A Manner of Speaking: An Interview with Gary Hill." *Afterimage* 10, 8 (March


*Vidéoformes ’89: Festival de la Création Vidéo.* Program notes. Clermont-Ferrand, France:
Festival de la Création Vidéo, 1989, p. 12.

Sarrazin, Stephen. *Chimaera Monographe No. 10 (Gary Hill).* Montbéliard, France: Centre
International de Création Vidéo Montbéliard, Belfort, 1992, pp. 20 – 22, 48, 72, 74. (Including
excerpts from an interview with Gary Hill)


**Exhibition History:**


Atlanta Independent Film & Video Festival, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, May 12 – 20, 1978.


“New York Video,” Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany, July 7 – August 2, 1981.


Solo screening. Espace lyonnais d’art contemporain (ELAC), Lyon, France, July 26 and September 27, 1988.


“Hill(scape),” Extra Microwave Media Art Festival (organized by Videotage), Hong Kong Space Museum Lecture Hall, Hong Kong, January 14 – 31, 2001 (January 21 screening).


Notes: