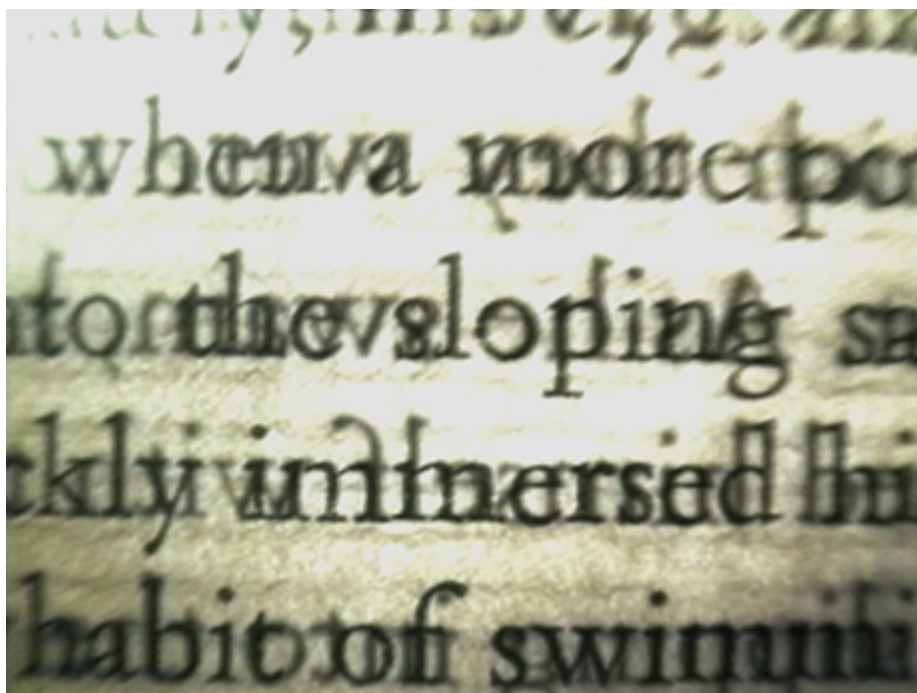
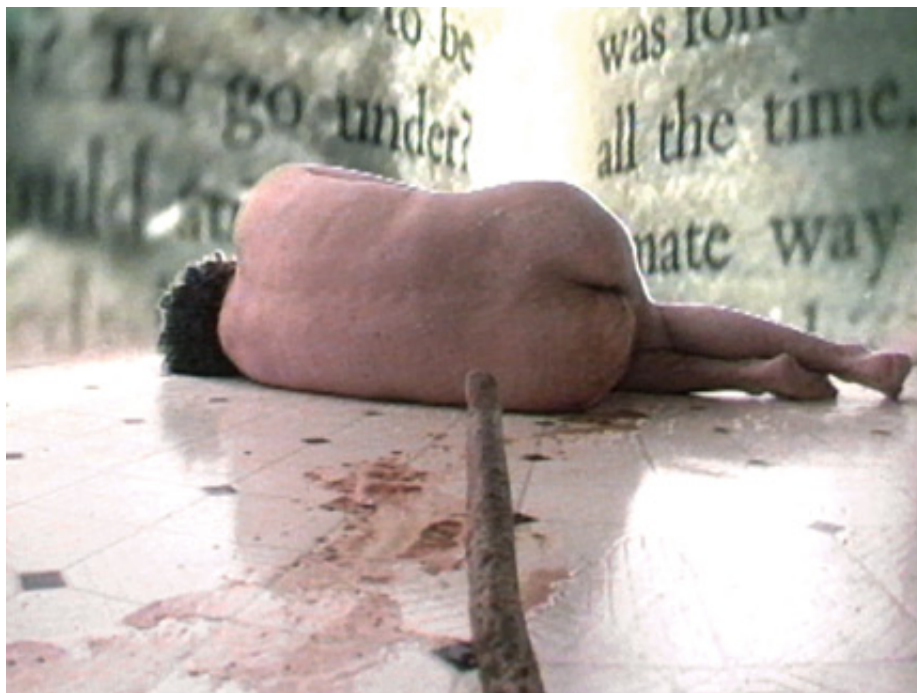

GARY HILL









Title:Incidence of Catastrophe

Date:1987-88

Media:Video (color, stereo sound); 43:51 min.

Video Link :<https://vimeo.com/5580721>

Description:

Inspired by the novel *Thomas the Obscure* by Maurice Blanchot wherein the protagonist of the novel is the reader of the novel he is in (who may well be Blanchot himself). In the video, Thomas the protagonist is played by Hill which confounds the self-reflexive nature of the book's relationships all the more, making the video something of a "transcreation." The "reader" begins in the liquidity of the text almost as if he were waking from drowning. Images of the sea ravishing the shore – small cliffs of sand eroding and collapsing – are inter-cut with extreme close-ups of text and the texture of the page and book itself being flooded with ocean waves. In scene after scene the reader attempts to re-enter the book only to find himself a part of intense dreams and hallucinations. Thomas/Hill reads the book, when, suddenly, he feels he is being watched by the words. The character then experiences the book as a forest of words he is fighting through. Another "chapter" finds him alone in his room at night, overcome by a strange illness, in which the vision of the text has him vomiting violently. The text infiltrates the reader's entire experience. Thinking he is still capable of functioning socially, the character finds himself at dinner with a group of hotel guests. Their conversation turns into isolated words that, like the sand, erode and wash away with seemingly all possibilities of meaning. The final scene shows

the reader in the form of Hill physically and mentally destroyed. Cowering naked in the fetal position, he lies in his own excrement on a white-tiled floor, babbling unintelligible sounds. The pages of the book have grown into monumental walls with colossal letters that menacingly surround and imprison the naked body.

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Spoken Text:

Incidence of Catastrophe includes a dinner party scene in which the actors improvised a dialogue incorporating single words specifically selected by the artist from Maurice Blanchot's *Thomas the Obscure*. Following the dinner party scene, various manipulated words and phrases (including "similar," "just," "it went," "learned," "vague," "swum," "here," "obstacle," "this and that") become audible and are at times repeated.

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ForumBHZvideo, Festival Internacional de Video, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, November 10 – 15, 1993.

"Gary Hill: Sites Recited," Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, December 3, 1993 – February 20, 1994.

"Gary Hill," Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon, France, May 26 – September 19, 1994.

"Gary Hill: Selected Videotapes 1978 – 1990," Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 7 – August 28, 1994.

"Heart of Darkness," Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, The Netherlands, December 18, 1994 – March 26, 1995.

"Gary Hill," Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, December 19, 1994 – March 12, 1995.

"Gary Hill," (travelling exhibition organized by Riksställningar, Stockholm, Sweden) Moderna Museet, Spårvagnshallarna, Stockholm, Sweden, February 4 – April 17, 1995; Museet for samtidskunst, Oslo, Norway, April 26 - May 21, 1995; Helsingin Taidehalli, Helsinki, Finland, June 29 - July 30, 1995; Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden, September 3 - October 15, 1995, Jönköpings läns museum, Jönköping, Sweden, October 22 - November 15, 1995; Göteborgs Konstmuseum, Göteborg, Sweden, November 15, 1995 - January 14, 1996.

Solo exhibition. Dia Center for the Arts, New York, New York, May 11 – June 25, 1995.

"The Decade Between: American Video Art, 1978 – 1988: Fighting Words: Works by Juan Downey, Gary Hill, and Peter Rose," Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, California, October 18, 1995.

Sedicesima Biennale Internazionale del Bronzetto Piccola Scultura Padova, Padua, Italy, October 29, 1995 – January 28, 1996.

"One and Others: Photography and Video by Juan Downey, Angela Grauerholz, Gary Hill, Alfredo Jaar, Annette Messager," Galerie Lelong, New York, New York, January 18 – March 9, 1996.

"Of Sound Mind: Language and Disorder." New Langton Arts, San Francisco, California, January 18 and 26, 1996.

"Unimprovised Art: Toward New Classical Trends," Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, June – September 1997.

"Gary Hill: O lugar do outro/where the other takes place," Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 1 – 6, 1997 (not the full run of the exhibition); Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, October 3 – November 2, 1997.

"Human References: Marks of the Artist: A Ten Year Retrospective Exhibition of the Seattle Artists' Program Collection," Seattle Arts Commission, Seattle Center Pavilion, Seattle, Washington, October 10 – October 26, 1997.

"Gary Hill," Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, January 30 – May 3, 1998.

"Visual Utterance: The Works of Gary Hill," Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, California, February 11, 18, 1998.

"El Cuerpo del Delito," Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 9, 1998.

Solo exhibition. Center for Contemporary Images, Saint-Gervais Genève, Geneva, Switzerland, September 9, 10, 1998.

"Video Arte," Palacio de Osambela, Lima, Peru, October 15 – December 15, 1998.

Solo exhibition. Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark, January 17 – April 5, 1999.

Group exhibition. TV Gallery, Moscow, Russia, January 27, 1999.

“Gary Hill: Video Works,” NTT InterCommunication Center, Tokyo, Japan, February 16 – March 31, 1999.

“Transmute,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, August 21 – November 7, 1999.

“The Cool World: Film & Video in America 1950 – 2000, Part 2: The Unfixed Image, 1970 - 2000,” Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York, January 30, 2000.

Solo exhibition. Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 17 – June 4, 2000 (May 27, 2000 screening).

Solo exhibition. Museo Caraffa, Córdoba, Argentina, July 7 – 30, 2000 (July 22, 2000 screening).

“Hill(scape),” Extra Microwave Media Art Festival (organized by Videotage), Hong Kong Space Museum Lecture Hall, Hong Kong, January 14 – 31, 2001 (January 20 screening).

“I’ll Never Let You Go,” organized by Panacea Festivals / Siemens Kulturprogramm, Stockholm, Sweden, March 9 – 18, 2001.

“Gary Hill: Selected Works,” Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany, November 10, 2001 – March 10, 2002. Travelled to: Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon, Portugal, October 10, 2002 – January 12, 2003.

“l’écriture vidéophage – les bandes vidéo de Gary Hill.” La Compagnie, Marseille, France, May 1 – 31, 2001 (May 22 & 24 screenings).

Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, March 14 - 24, 2002 (entire program February 28 - March 24, 2002).

“Video Acts: Single Channel Works from the Collections of Pamela and Richard Kramlich and the New Art Trust,” P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, New York, November 10, 2002 – April 2003.

Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, March 16 – April 19, 2003.

“Skin-deep: Il Corpo come luogo del segno artistico,” MART: Il Museo d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy, October 28, 2003 – January 18, 2004.

Panel discussion, “Vingt ans du College de Philosophie,” École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris, France, November 6, 2003.

“Gary Hill: A Personal Anthology / Video Works,” (video screenings) The Ossolinski National Institute, Wroclaw, Poland, December 1 / 2 and FAMU, Prague, Czech Republic, December 9, 2004.

"Image, Body, Text: Selected Works by Gary Hill," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California, March 24 – May 30, 2005.

"Gary Hill: Strange Trajectories," NRW-Forum / IMAI (Inter Media Art Institute), Dusseldorf, Germany, September 15 – October 28, 2007.

"Gary Hill: Voice Grounds," St Paul Street Gallery, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, March 12 - April 25, 2009.

"Art of Limina: Gary Hill," Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 21 – May 1, 2009.

"Mulberry Tree Press," SE8 Gallery, London, England, May 7 – July 11, 2010.

"SWELL: Art 1950 – 2010," Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York, NY, July 1 – August 6, 2010.

"Gary Hill: Between Word and Image," Headquarters of the Superintendence for the Archaeological Heritage of the Vento / Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Verona, Italy, October 14 – 16, 2010.

"Secret Journeys, from the EMST Collection," ART-ATHINA (International Contemporary Art Fair of Athens), Athens, Greece, May 12 – 15, 2011.

"30 Year – 30 Voices: A retrospective celebrating the 30th anniversary of Videonale Bonn," Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany, August 24 - October 5, 2014.

"Gary Hill," 37 Moscow International Film Festival/Media Forum, Cinema October, June 21, 2015.

"Gary Hill: Momentombs," Suwon Art Museum, Suwon, Korea, November 26, 2019 — March 6, 2020.

Notes:

Camera / Lighting: Rex Barker

With Ramone Cyrus McLane, Lou Hetler, George Catalano, Joy Cohen, Diane Wagner, Phyllis Bannister, Ed Boyd, and Maria Lodahl