

From Two Places

Mobile Media 2 Ontario-wide tour, March-April 2006

The word “mobile” is used to describe this touring screening series, but it is also a useful term to describe many Ontario media artists. They trace their history from two places: where they are and where they come from. For them, identity is a fluid idea that often has to be reassessed in the face of their surroundings and influences. As a result, they look carefully at how culture and politics shape their sense of self and think of how the distance of geography and time affect their own place in the world. The artists in this program use the intimacy of video to draw viewers into their thoughts about the many pulls of their past and present.

Fine China

Ho Tam (Toronto) video 2000 8:30

Made for a project to imagine the future of moving images, Ho Tam's *Fine China* took a different tact. He projected media images of Chinese culture upon the mass produced bowls and vessels that we also call “China” to show how images will always have cultural contexts behind them.

The End of Thought

Jorge Lozano (Toronto) video 2002 8:00

For Jorge Lozano, his identity is always questioned when he crosses the border, when the authority of the State measures who he is from where he comes from. In this video, he imagines how they must see him and also presents his body as he wants it seen as a way to reclaim his identity for himself.

divine

Leslie Peters (Toronto) video 2003 5:30

Leslie Peters made this work in memory of a mentor, Colin Campbell, who was an early practitioner of video art. In this video Peters guides our attention to a visual doubling, a beautiful representation of the collapse of past and present that one feels when saying farewell to a place or a friend.

Islands

Richard Fung (Toronto) video 2002 8:45

Richard Fung looks carefully at the cultural authority of Hollywood, which often influences how we perceive ourselves. He follows the adventures of his uncle Clive, who worked as an extra for the film *Heaven Knows Mr. Allison*. The “magic” of Hollywood turned his native Trinidad & Tobago into the backdrop of the Pacific War and reduced his uncle to the anonymity of a background role.

remapping/regresando

Juana Awad (Toronto) video 2004 4:00

Juana Awad only discovered a pile of letters her father had written her after he died, when she returned to Columbia for the funeral. After returning to Canada,

she videotaped her friend reading them to her for the first time. A relationship, muted by circumstance, crosses over the divide of time and space.

33 minutes

All pieces distributed by Vtape. Contact Daniel Cockburn
416 351-1317 or by email at distribution@vtape.org

Chris Kennedy is a Toronto-based filmmaker, curator and writer. He has programmed film, video and live performance for the Images Festival since 2003 and has served on the screening collective for Pleasure Dome since 2000.