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William Kentridge

South African artist William Kentridge has forged a unique practice, one that is rooted in avant-garde theater and traditional forms of Left cultural critique even as it responds to contemporary video and the international art world. Translating his distinctive charcoal drawings into hand-made animated films that show signs of erasure and reworking, Kentridge crafts allegorical, gestural narratives that may be read as specific to the political and social realities of South Africa, at the same time that they function as powerful observations of the human condition



Automatic Writing
2003, 2:38 min, b&w, sound

Anri Sala

Anri Sala, an Albanian artist living in Paris, has gained international attention for his video, animation and photographic works. With an emphasis on slowness, stillness, and intimate detail, Sala explores the interface of documentary and fiction. His painterly works elicit an undercurrent of tension that speaks to political and social realities, articulating loss and alienation through a specificity of place and cultural context that seems rooted in memory and history



Time After Time
2003, 5:22 min, color, sound

David Claerbout

Claerbout uses cinematic techniques to create a suspenseful journey through a dimly lit forest that reaches an unexpected conclusion. The DVD includes an interview with the artist by Hans-Ulrich Obrist.



Le Moment
2003, 2:44 min, color, sound

Francis Alÿs

Since 1991, Francis Alÿs has produced a complex and elusive body of work in video, painting, performance, documentary film, and photography. A Belgian-born artist who lives in Mexico City, Alÿs explores issues ranging from political structures and transnational boundaries to questions of how the individual makes sense of social representations and cultural mythologies. In many of Alÿs' works, the act of walking becomes a narrative process through which the artist investigates social and political spaces.



El Gringo
2003, 4:12 min, color, sound

Isaac Julien

Isaac Julien has forged a critical dialogue on issues of race and sexuality through his work in film, video installation, and photography. Julien, who is based in London, first gained international attention in the 1980s for his provocative feature films, documentaries and experimental video works, which explored identity. His more recent multi-media installation works extend this inquiry into poetic yet politically charged meditations. The stunning, color-saturated images that make up Julien's work refer to the African Diaspora and the quest to find roots in a New World. The DVD includes an interview by Dan Cameron.



Encore
2003, 4:38 min, color, sound