

Personal Notes on Operation Rewrite

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There is really only one way for me to describe Operation Rewrite and that is to make CINEMA about it, which I have done twice already. It might also be feasible to attempt to write a review, article or some kind of analytical text to examine this 'living organism of cinema'. This is what I'll try to do now.

I will try to explain my thoughts in plain English.

I'll begin by asking a fundamental question: why OR is important? The direct answer is: Because it suggests the notion and existence of cinema in the 21st century. And, I emphasize, only in the 21st century, not in the 20th or 22nd. Why this conclusion?

FORM, in my view, is the most important and vital part of the 7th art. When you conceive a unique form, then narrative, drama or story can be articulated with it. Or you can have just the form itself, which is amazingly expressive in its own right.

1) I happened to start making films at the beginning of the millennium, in the year 2000. From the very first day, I thought of one concept only and that was the discovery of what cinema is in this new era. This question has pushed me to continuously experiment and investigate in the laboratory of my filmmaking.

2) The films one makes are nothing but the haunting shadows and lights of the films that one has seen in the past. There is no original film, except for the very first ones by the medium's pioneers. For eleven years, I drew my forms from the history of 20th century cinema.

3) This state of affairs changed abruptly when I started to collaborate with Maximilian Le Cain and, later, on his project with Esperanza Collado, Operation Rewrite.

Instantly, I knew the forms I discovered in this project were completely new and exotic. I realized I could now finally see glimpses of a 21st century cinema and how it could function as an alternative to what came before. The impact was so massive that I had to launch a new project in order to, firstly, put these revelations into practice and, secondly, to digest them fully. My biggest film project to date, Homo Sapiens Project, was born. Everything is different now ... at least for me!

Now! Reading this account of the development of OR is very helpful:

Operation Rewrite began in January 2011 as an online video project in which Collado and Le Cain posted a number of 45-second videos made according to a set of rules, most importantly that one-third of each video should be black screen. However, Operation Rewrite soon boiled over into the production of 16mm films, longer videos, installations, performances, an artist's book, a photo-blog and a constantly evolving series of exhibitions.

The reason it is helpful is because it provides a context and gives evidence that this multiform vision is definitely a living cinematic organism in the 21st century. If you try to kill cinema, as Operation Rewrite does, it just gets stronger!!!