FILM 2332 — Understanding Film, Discussion 8

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Question

Complacency among Avant-Garde artists seems to be one of the largest barriers to expression. While trying to push boundaries as far as possible (at least at the time the film is made), the results can be less-than-pleasant to watch. Artists may rely on this unpleasantness as the means for communicating their message, especially when seeing this message for the first time. When artists continue to repeat the same message (and become complacent in finding new messages), is the message still impactful? Similarly, can the film still be considered creative?

Commentary

Experimental film, is similar to the sculptures *Bottle Rack* and *Fountain* by Marcel DuChamp. In these pieces, the mundaneness of the objects and its difference from traditional art make it unclear if DuChamp is laughing at the audience, just as it is unclear if the Avant-Garde artist is laughing at the audience. This idea of using found art is very similar to the Avant-Garde usage of found film, as neither seem like "art" and are often discarded for a reason. Many of these films reject aesthetic value in favor of emotions - even negative ones, and commenting on the world. In this case, the value of the film is for two reasons: for pushing the technical ideas of what art is, and for making statements about the world large.

Kubelka talks about being limited to only two minutes when filming. While he talks about the limitations in his early films as monetary, the same limitations inspire creativity today. TikTok and other short-form video social media applications are similarly limited in time, and force creativity in the same way. Interestingly, similar trends emerge in both instances. Kubelka also talks about the importance rhythm was when making these films. In parallel, TikTok and its related applications rely on dancing in time to music to do similar synchronization. Music videos in pop, hip-hop, and other contemporary music employ the same techniques, but can be more inauthentic, since they modify the speed at which the film is played to better match the visual effects of the video with the music and give the illusion of synchronization.