

# Personal Visions: Mapping Territories in Southern California

Curated by  
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**S**ubjective visions of mind and place, geography and landscape, as seen by a range of Southern California media artists, informs the theme of this selection. I've attempted to represent the range of media and artists who have been captivated by their own version of this theme. Through looking at the work this way, it has been interesting to note the range of subjective responses that illustrate the "Southland," whether it is through Pat O'Neill's 'painterly' visions, or Roddy Bogawa's leisurely yet intensely passionate wanderings, or Jules Engel's abstract explosion of colored fields.

Although this selection does not do justice to the history and range of all Southern Californian independent media, it offers a sample-type view of the range of alternative cinema and video, produced by some of the most original and talented artists in our area.



On the Edge

**On the Edge** Curtis Harrington's nightmarish fantasy is set against a dark industrial landscape, reminiscent of Stocker Boulevard on the way to LAX. A man who meets and flees from destiny cannot free himself from a tenuous, yet binding, connection.

**Bump City** Pat O'Neill's documentary-style look at Los Angeles, hailed by David Curtis as a "city symphony of the sixties," is filled with the sensuous images which have become the spectacular icons of Lotus Land: neon signs, cars, garbage.

**Olivia's Place** A portrait of a neighborhood cafe on a Sunday afternoon: Olivia's place at 2618 Main Street in Santa Monica. The laid-back ambiance of a comfy beach hangout is complete with "There Is Something on Your Mind" by Big Sonny on the jukebox and the Harlem Globetrotters and Humphrey Bogart's Tokyo Joe on TV.

**City, City** The premonition of an increasingly urbanized Los Angeles: focusing on downtown and its growth and development, looking towards the future of a multi-ethnic sea of humanity that makes L.A. its home.

**FILMEX in Hollywood Trailer** When FILMEX, Los Angeles' very own international film festival, moved from its Century City location back to Hollywood's Chinese Theater, filmmaker Robert Swarthe imagined a cross-section of film-going Angelenos and their reaction to the move.

**Landscape** Boldly colored flashing frames bring to mind the arresting balance of light and hues in animator Jules Engel's film.

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**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 8:00**

<i>On the Edge</i> , Curtis Harrington music by Charles Ives	1949	16mm	6:00
<i>Bump City</i> , Pat O'Neill	1964	16mm	3:00
<i>Olivia's Place</i> , Thom Andersen photography by John Moore	1966	16mm	5:00
<i>City, City</i> , Duane Kubo & Donna Deitch	1974	16mm	12:00
<i>FILMEX in Hollywood Trailer</i> , Robert Swarthe	1982	16mm	1:00
<i>Landscape</i> , Jules Engel	1974	16mm	3:00
<i>L.A. Nickel</i> , Branda Miller	1983	Video	10:00
<i>Four or Five Accidents One June...</i> Roddy Bogawa	1988	16mm	25:00
<i>Don from Lakewood</i> , Eric Saks & Pat Tierny	1989	Video	15:00
<i>The Works 2: Reyner Banham &amp; Mike Davis excerpt</i> , Bruce Yonemoto, Ed de la Torre, Melissa Totten	1993	Video	8:00

**AT HOLLYWOOD MOGULS**



Don from Lakewood

## Mapping Territories *continued*

**L.A. Nickel** An early view of homelessness which does not cut corners: the frightening terror, despair, and hopelessness of daily life in urban Los Angeles is punctuated through the harsh video images and audio tracks.

**Four or Five Accidents One June...** Roddy Bogawa's meditation along a delivery route is framed by the wandering language of a narrator and visualized through palm tree-dotted and sun 'n' smog landscape of San Diego.\*

**Don from Lakewood** Shot on video using Pixelvision, this real-life phone conversation, perversely animated through shadowy figures, represents the mental, fictional, and mind-fuck spaces created by phone in the southland.

**The Works 2** Quoting from texts by Reyner Banham and Mike Davis, this two-part video essay gives us a view of the golden, imagined utopian Los Angeles of the past and a view of the paranoid vision of Los Angeles of the present.

*\*Although San Diego-based Four or Five Accidents One June ... falls outside of the Los Angeles area, I feel, like others, that Roddy Bogawa's film captures a totally Southern Californian sensibility.*