



COLLATERAL GENERATOR OF FORMS

Marc Behrens

U.S.A./D

2002–2004

Duration: 14:48 (chapter 1 7:07, chapter 2 7:41)

Format: digital video (DVD/DV)

Chapter 1: material recorded November 2002 (Chicago, USA), cut at Lampo, Chicago, USA and at artist's studio

Chapter 2: material recorded October 2003 (Athens, GR), cut at artist's studio, Frankfurt a.M., D

'Collateral Generator of Forms' describes two visual journeys in two different cities, preceded each time by a characteristic street musician: in Chicago it is Rufus Lockett, an elderly Blues guitar player, who plays in front of a department store, in Athens it is an organ-grinder who walks around Omonoia Square, playing a strange Sirtaki with an irregular bell sound. He preferred to be anonymous.

Both musicians represent geographically specific ideas about their countries' typical music: Blues or Sirtaki.

The sounds of the street musicians begin unaltered, slowly transforming while the screen becomes divided into two halves, showing two recordings of the same scene shot from a different angle and spliced in time, but playing back parallelly.

The street musicians in the video's two chapters symbolize the conventional and traded-down idea of music, generating musical forms from the top-down communicated musical material of an electric guitar or a barrel-organ. They also, in an absolute way, represent themselves visually and by gesture.

The idea of a 'collateral' and incidental Generator of Forms, i.e. somebody who detects, observes and puts together forms – music (visual and auditive, for there is no semantic difference in this work between those two aspects) – is juxtaposed to the street musicians' approach, but needs them to explain himself. She/He takes in all the visual and auditive happenings in the two cities that occur along her/his trajectories. From these happenings, recorded on video, come transformations, cuts, rhythms – in one word: forms. These constitute two sequences of image/sound clusters, inspiring the viewer/listener like the original incidents inspired the Collateral Generator. In fact he does not generate them, but he rather transfers them into the work of art.

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