

CYCLOPS

Minnette Vári
2004

SINGLE CHANNEL VIDEO INSTALLATION
FORMAT: DVD
VIDEO: 2 MINUTES 23 SECONDS STEREO AUDIO: 4 MINUTES 59 SECONDS
LOOPED INDEFINITELY
VIDEO FORMAT: PAL DV (25 FPS, 720 X 576)

PRODUCTION CREDIT
PRODUCED THROUGH A GENEROUS GRANT BY DICK ENTHOVEN AND SPIER, SOUTH AFRICA

RESEARCH & CONCEPT
MINNETTE VÁRI

POST PRODUCTION & EDITING
MINNETTE VÁRI AND ANTON WANNENBURG

SOUND DESIGN
JACQUES VAN ZYL

FIRST SHOWN ON
PERSONAL AFFECTS: POWER AND POETICS IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICAN ART
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CYCLOPS

How uncanny the appearance, in almost every culture, of the primordial, the mandala; a lens of contemplation that focuses mind and spirit towards an illuminated centre - an aperture to enlightenment.

We gather in the glow of another, more mundane lens: the hypnotic eye of television; a messenger caught in the labyrinths of ideology and economic allegiance while trading in visions of the future in the name of truth. Is truth still naked in a world simultaneously blinded and lit up by the sight of its own horrors?

While in many cultures a third eye suggests special insight, the one-eyed creature must admit its divorce from perspective, from reason. The light and colour of the rose window holds us spellbound, but it is the dark stone formation of the tracery that gives structure, momentum and rhythm to the spectacle. With my body used as a recording device, I traced the gestures that play out in the news of our time. Replicated into the formulae of gothic stonecarving, the movements have a menacing daisy chain - a tracery for a window that does not necessarily illuminate. It devours. For all our labours, are we caught somewhere in the alimentary canal of a monster of our own making?