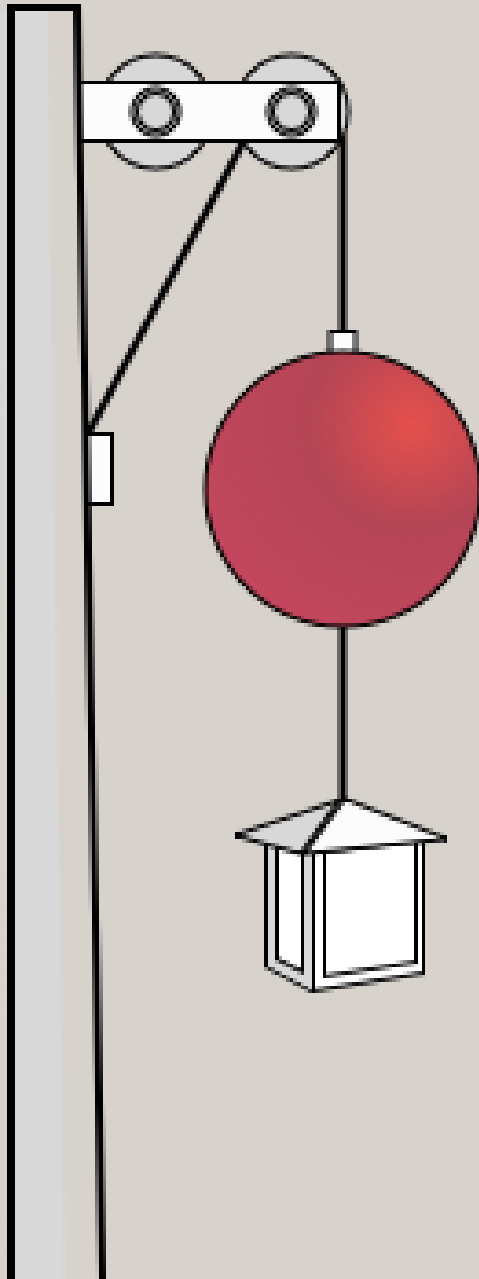




Matthew Harrison



high·ball ('hī-,bəl)

verb

A railroad signal for a train to proceed at full speed



Agenda

01 Abstract

02 Director's Statement

03 Cinematic Approach

04 Influences

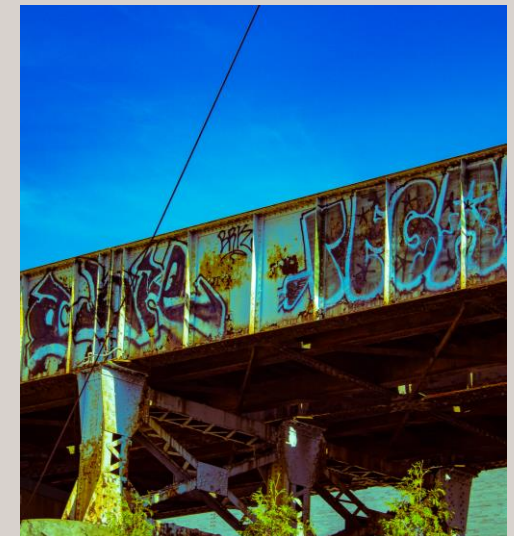
05 About the Director

01 Abstract

Capture the freight cars and rapid transit that occurs inside and outside of Center City Philadelphia.

Document the different rail lines and graffiti on these trains and their paths.

Smooth instrumental music would be used to document the rhythm of these trains through different shots and angles to help highlight the inner beauty of the city that is normally overlooked.



02 Director's Statement

Summary

This project has been a long passion of mine. It came through with my love for trains and art as a whole. I always walk around the city and notice obscure art, signage, architecture, and urban iconography. Documenting this means a lot to show the beauty in an expressionistic nature through style and aesthetics, emulating avant-garde short films with a hint of realism in capturing life stylistically to show my personality. Words and narratives cannot express the feeling that visuals and music add to a film. My aim in this is to utilize editing and various types of shots that compliment the rhythm of transit and street art.

OS Cinematic Approach

Avant-garde, neo-realism, cinema verité, abstract expressionistic, documentary

- Emphasis on street aesthetic in realism and style
- Diverse shot selection, camera movement, and use of the different lenses. Framing the diverse graffiti
- No dialogue, instrumental background song, soft sound effects



Planning



Techniques

- Shoot as much footage to compile
- Utilize footage in a rhythmic approach that articulates the beats and dictates the pacing for a surreal experience
- Create a palpable sense of place
- Aim to be 5 to 7 minutes
- Handheld approach for more naturalistic feel with usage of tripod for movement

Locations

- Railroad alongside the Schuylkill River, elevated platforms at University City, and regional rail to Trenton, NJ

Method



Shot Selection

- Series of free-flowing train shots that cover story and sense of journey
- Macro and Telephoto Lens
- Perspective, symmetrical, static, & geometric angles; lines guide the viewer

Mood

- Important, relaxes the viewer
- Shots are not planned but instead manipulated together and edited
- Music instrumentation pivotal for emotion through listening

Other elements

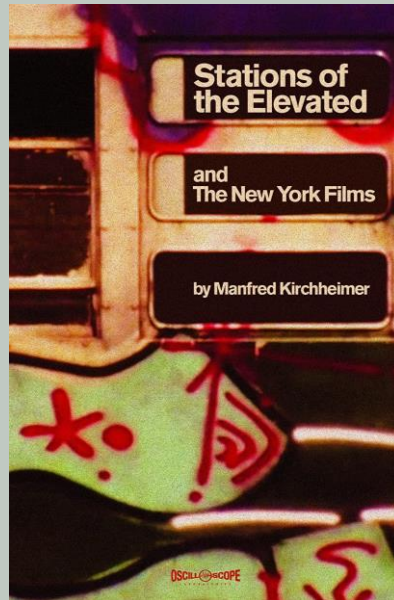
- Signage used in cutaway and inserts
- Aerial shots used sparingly
- Urban admiration
- Visual creativity

04 Influences

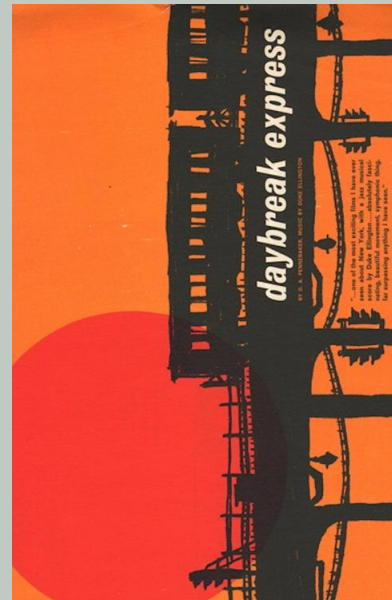
Rain (1929)
Joris Ivens



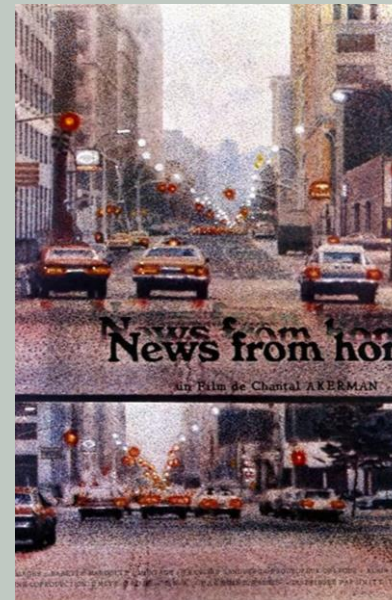
Stations of the
Elevated (1981)
Manfred Kirchheimer



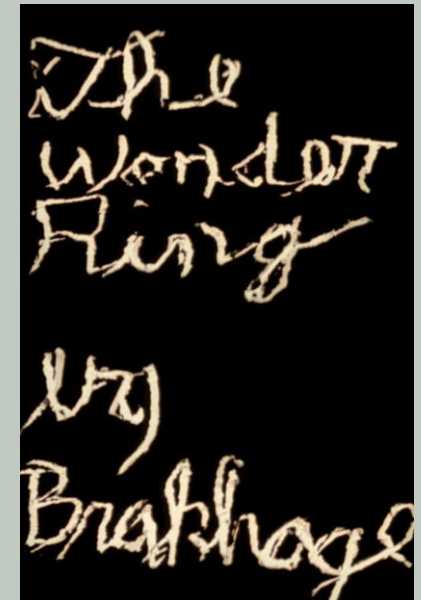
Daybreak
Express (1953)
D.A. Pennebaker

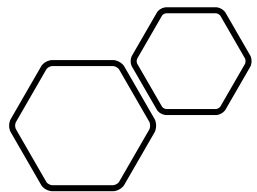


News from
Home (1977)
Chantal Akerman



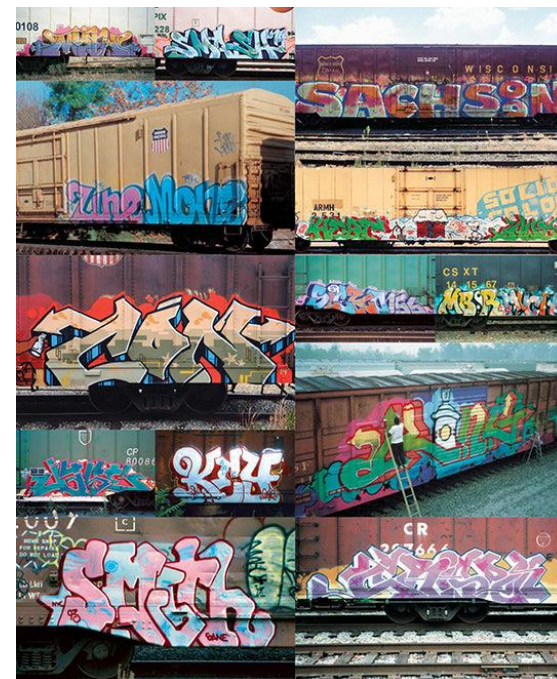
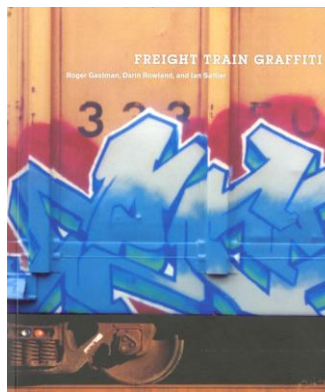
The Wonder
Ring (1955)
Stan Brakhage





Visual Reference & Culture

Highlight the ubiquitous parts of
urban landscapes near railways



8/2/2022

05 About the Director



I mainly shoot candid street photographs while walking through the city of Philadelphia for countless hours. I love to shoot cityscapes, facades, bicycles, graffiti, murals, storefront signage, and urban artifacts.

I have had a passion for film and art since I was young. I studied architecture at Drexel before switching to my current major in accounting. My interest in art has expanded in many ways in finding artists that I admire through the rise of social media platforms. I have a knack for researching and browsing art & photography books, films and listening to instrumentals that have helped develop who I am. My goal is to bring my avid admiration for art and apply that to my photos. I aim to visualize the world through my personal lens in various compositions and am heavily inspired by 35mm street photography, black & white, neo-realism films, and my love for graphic design. I want this film to be a love letter to the city of Philadelphia as the culmination of my time in college and growing love for trains through the art & culture of the city. I hope I can work on more projects like this to give new life to an urban surrounding and those around it.