



Great American Desert

Stephen Connolly 16' 16mm 2007

Synopsis

The camera of Great American Desert observes a scrubby Arizona desert, seasonally occupied by recreational vehicle dwellers. Other elements emerge in juxtaposition, including an account of the men who carried out the Hiroshima bombing and documentary evidence of a spectacle staged shortly afterwards in celebration of this event.

The film invokes an examination of 'social liberty' in the West in relation to war, spectacle, the environment and consumerism.

Great American Desert is part of a series of works called Afflicted States, begun in late 2001, when exploring the relationship between the individual and state seemed to take on a new urgency. These short films see the present through the past, conducting an exploration of political experience within consumer society.

Credits

filmed & recorded	21 - 23 January 2006, Quartzsite, Arizona, USA
radio broadcaster	Jack Shelley
voices	Quartzsite RV visitors
interview	Janice McLaren
thanks to	Adam Clitheroe, Daniel Copley, Vlastimir Sudar
thanks to	BLM, Lake Havasu Office, Arizona
special thanks to	Tom Emmerson, Janice McLaren, Jack Shelley
image/edit/sound	Stephen Connolly © 2007

Screenings: festivals & exhibitions

Solo Screening, National Film Theatre, BFI Southbank, London 01.12.08
Nought to Sixty, Institute of Contemporary Art, London 18.08.08
If - people and places in recent film and video, Bloomberg Space, London 28.03 -10.05.08
Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, Czech Republic 2008
Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA 2008
EMAF Osnabrück Film Festival, Germany 2008
Rotterdam International Film Festival, The Netherlands 2008
New Lands, BFI Southbank, London 17.06.07

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