

(nostalgia)

Hollis Frampton 1971

Hollis Frampton's film *(nostalgia)*, made in 1971, records the artist's experiences as a photographer in New York City from 1959 to 1966. The film charts his photographic career from "the first photograph I ever made with the direct intention of making art" to the end, with the penultimate sentence, "I think I shall never dare to make another photograph again".

Experimenting with the experience of cinematic temporality, the time that it takes for a photograph to burn & turn to ash, becomes the clock within the film. The film is made up of thirteen 100ft spools of 16mm film (just under 3 minutes each) & runs for approx. 36 minutes in all. In twelve of the thirteen segments, a photograph appears on screen & a narrator starts to account for the content of the photograph in the first person, telling us facts about when and where it was taken. Whilst listening Frampton's reminiscences, narrating & mythologizing his earlier art and his previous life, we see a series of still photographs slowly burning one at a time on a hotplate.

The narration is confusing though, because details described in the photographs do not seem to be there. The major structural strategy of *(nostalgia)* is a disjunction between sound & image. As we watch each photograph burn, we hear the memories relating to the following photograph. The sound & image are on two different time schedules.

At any moment, we are listening to a commentary about a photograph that we shall be seeing in the future & looking at a photograph that we have just heard about.

We are pulled between anticipation & memory. The nature of the commentary reinforces the complexity; it arouses our sense of anticipation by referring to the future; it also reminisces about the past, about the time & conditions under which the photographs were made. The double time sense results in a complex audio/visual experience.