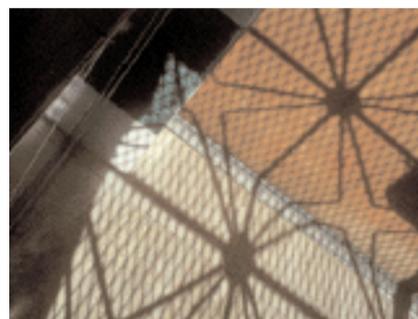


avant-garde poll



Peter Hutton's *At Sea*



Nathaniel Dorsky's *Sarabande*



Tomonari Nishikawa's *Lumphini 2552*

A Decade in the Dark: Avant-Garde Film & Video 2000-2009

IN THE PAST DECADE the making and showing of experimental film worldwide has gone from strength to strength, so much so that it can be categorically said that avant-garde cinema is as vital now as it has ever been. This addendum to our Jan/Feb end-of-decade wrap-up serves to acknowledge just some of the experimental film achievements of the 21st century's first 10 years. The rankings on the three lists below were obtained through the tabulation of the number of mentions a given film or filmmaker received in poll responses from a 46-strong group of critics, programmers, and teachers.

50 Best Films of the Decade

1. <i>At Sea</i> Peter Hutton, U.S., 2007	18	25. <i>As I Was Moving Ahead Occasionally I Saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty</i> Jonas Mekas, U.S., 2000	9
2. <i>Pitcher of Colored Light</i> Robert Beavers, U.S./Switzerland, 2007	16	<i>The Great Art of Knowing</i> David Gatten, U.S., 2004	9
3. () Morgan Fisher, U.S., 2003	15	<i>The Ground</i> Robert Beavers, U.S., 1993-2001	9
<i>Ah Liberty!</i> Ben Rivers, U.K., 2008	15	<i>The Hedge Theater</i> Robert Beavers, U.S./Switzerland, 2002	9
<i>Observando el Cielo</i> Jeanne Liotta, U.S., 2007	15	<i>Poetry and Truth</i> Peter Kubelka, Austria, 2003	9
<i>Star Spangled to Death</i> Ken Jacobs, U.S., 1956-2004	15	<i>Sarabande</i> Nathaniel Dorsky, U.S., 2008	9
7. <i>Ten Skies</i> James Benning, U.S., 2004	14	<i>The Visitation</i> Nathaniel Dorsky, U.S., 2002	9
8. <i>The Fourth Watch</i> Janie Geiser, U.S., 2000	13	<i>When It Was Blue</i> Jennifer Reeves, U.S./Iceland, 2008	9
<i>The Heart of the World</i> Guy Maddin, Canada, 2000	13	33. <i>Arbor Vitae</i> Nathaniel Dorsky, U.S., 2000	8
<i>RR</i> James Benning, U.S., 2007	13	<i>In Comparison</i> Harun Farocki, Germany/Austria, 2009	8
11. <i>Black and White Trypps Number Three</i> Ben Russell, U.S., 2007	12	<i>It's Not My Memory of It - Three Recollected Documents</i>	
<i>The Decay of Fiction</i> Pat O'Neill, U.S., 2002	12	The Speculative Archive U.S., 2003	8
<i>The God of Day Had Gone Down Upon Him</i> Stan Brakhage, U.S., 2002	12	<i>Meditations on Revolution, Part V: Foreign City</i> Robert Fenz, U.S., 2003	8
<i>An Injury to One</i> Travis Wilkerson, U.S., 2002	12	<i>Nest of Tens</i> Miranda July, U.S., 2000	8
<i>Kolkata</i> Mark LaPore, US/India, 2005	12	<i>O'er the Land</i> Deborah Stratman, U.S., 2009	8
<i>13 Lakes</i> James Benning, U.S., 2004	12	<i>Psalm III: Night of the Meek</i> Phil Solomon, U.S., 2002	8
17. <i>The General Returns from One Place to Another</i>	11	<i>Winter</i> Nathaniel Dorsky, U.S., 2008	8
Michael Robinson, U.S., 2006		41. <i>California Trilogy: Los, Sogobi, El Valley Centro</i>	
<i>Song and Solitude</i> Nathaniel Dorsky, U.S., 2006	11	James Benning, U.S., 2000-01	7
19. <i>False Aging</i> Lewis Klahr, U.S., 2008	10	<i>*Corpus Callosum</i> Michael Snow, Canada, 2002	7
<i>The Glass System</i> Mark LaPore, U.S., 2000	10	<i>Dream Work (for Man Ray)</i> Peter Tscherkassky, Austria, 2001	7
<i>Instructions for a Light and Sound Machine</i> Peter Tscherkassky, Austria, 2005	10	<i>Horizontal Boundaries</i> Pat O'Neill, U.S., 2008	7
<i>A Letter to Uncle Boonmee</i> Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Thailand, 2009	10	<i>Let Each One Go Where He May</i> Ben Russell, U.S./Suriname, 2009	7
<i>She Puppet</i> Peggy Ahwesh, U.S., 2001	10	<i>Still Raining, Still Dreaming</i> Phil Solomon, U.S., 2009	7
<i>Skagafjörður</i> Peter Hutton, U.S./Iceland, 2004	10	<i>The Two Minutes to Zero Trilogy</i> Lewis Klahr, U.S., 2003-04	7
		<i>What the Water Said, nos. 4-6</i> David Gatten, U.S., 2007	7

>> IN FOCUS: Views from the Avant-Garde will present a series of best-of-the-decade programs on July 11, 18 & 25 at the Walter Reade Theater.

Top 50 Filmmakers

1. Nathaniel Dorsky	54
2. James Benning	49
3. Ken Jacobs	45
4. Lewis Klahr	41
5. Stan Brakhage	37
Phil Solomon	37
7. Robert Beavers	35
8. David Gatten	32
Peter Hutton	32
10. Michael Robinson	30
11. Ernie Gehr	29
Ben Russell	29
13. Mark LaPore	27
14. Ben Rivers	24
15. Janie Geiser	23
Jeanne Liotta	23
17. Luther Price	21
18. Jennifer Reeves	20
19. Pat O'Neill	19
20. Apichatpong Weerasethakul	18
21. Peggy Ahwesh	17
Stephanie Barber	17
Vincent Grenier	17
Jim Jennings	17
Peter Tscherkassky	17
Fred Worden	17
27. Guy Maddin	16
Bruce McClure	16
Julie Murray	16
30. Morgan Fisher	15
31. Scott Stark	14
Deborah Stratman	14
Travis Wilkerson	14
34. Harun Farocki	13
Jonas Mekas	13
36. Bruce Conner	12
Robert Fenz	12
Michael Snow	12
Leslie Thornton	12
40. Heinz Emigholz	11
Miranda July	11
42. Eve Heller	10
Michelle Smith	10
The Speculative Archive	10
45. Jacqueline Goss	9
Nicky Hamlyn	9
Peter Kubelka	9
Sharon Lockhart	9
Jim Trainor	9
Jean-Marie Straub & Danièle Huillet	9

The Decade of Projection Performance

CREATING CINEMA WITH AND WITHOUT FILM, many emerging and established artists have been producing striking new work in expanded forms and performance modes at a pace that shows no sign of waning as we enter the new decade.

Employing AV department overhead projectors, laptop Power-Point, multiple 16mm projectors in antiphonal crossfire, 35mm projectors operating without film, shadow-play and silhouettes, archaic technologies and toys found in flea markets, homemade contraptions constructed with balsam wood and styrofoam; with backing by orchestras, techno music, rock bands, and foley artists; projecting bloodprints, bi-packed images of pelicans in negative, sanded emulsion, translucent sheets with layered illustrations, mysterious objects, loops, filmstrips buried in topsoil or caked with paint and carefully applied pharmaceutical capsules stitched with thread; casting images onto walls, faces, fog banks, smoke, water, and sometimes even screens—the artists on this abbreviated list (right) contributed to a rich decade of projection-performance art.



Many makers brought innovation, refinement, raw power, and original conjuration to an ever-flexible medium by referencing ancient forms of fireside storytelling and shadow play, expanded cinema approaches pioneered in the Sixties, Dada Cabaret, John Cage, benshi, classroom reveries, minimalism, maximalism, and unclassifiable visionary practices.

Ken Jacobs has been a beacon for his itinerant Nervous Magic Lantern performances (pictured), which grew out of diverse approaches to live performance since the late Sixties and his own film performances of the last 30 years. Tony Conrad continued and revisited his biological and culinary approaches to film stock as well as live photochemical processing, along with his music/image and personality-based performances (as scientist, activist, theorist, magician, misfit child, i.e., himself). Anthony McCall ended the Nineties and rang in the new millennium by presenting a better-realized and younger-than-yesterday manifestation of his ultra-elegant 1973 *Line Describing a Cone* (a performance shot heard round the world) before going on to activate old and new scores for sculptural light projections. And in less than a decade Bruce McClure went from being “an artist’s artist” and intermittent-wunderkind-with-a-day-job to being a master of the form, an eye-opening skullsplatter performing in storefronts, theaters, and temples across the globe.—Mark McElhatten

POLL PARTICIPANTS: *Acquarello, Steve Anker, Thomas Beard, Ariella Ben-Dou, Amy Beste, Robin Blaetz, Nicole Brenez, Autumn Campbell, Fred Camper, Abigail Child, David Dinnell, Patrick Friel, David Gatten, Jacqueline Goss, Ed Halter, Alexander Horwath, Kristin M. Jones, Chris Kennedy, Nellie Killian, Lewis Klahr, Irina Leimbacher, Scott MacDonald, Matt McCormick, Mark McElhatten, Kevin McGarry, Don McMahon, Olaf Möller, Oona Mosna, Pablo de Ocampo, Susan Oxtoby, Andréa Picard, Tony Pipolo, Steve Polta, J.R. Rigsby, Jeremy Rossen, Lynne Sachs, Keith Sanborn, Michael Sicinski, Josh Siegel, P. Adams Sitney, Gavin Smith, Phil Solomon, Scott Stark, Chris Stults, Jim Supanick, Genevieve Yue*

21 Leading Lights of Projection Performance

(listed alphabetically)

Stephanie Barber
Daniel Barrow
Dirk de Bruyn
Paul Clipson
Tony Conrad
Ben Coonley
Sally Golding
Emma Hart & Benedict Drew
Ken Jacobs
Andrew Lampert
Larry 7
Guy Maddin
Bruce McClure
Metamkine
Greg Pope
Jürgen Reble
Luis Recoder & Sandra Gibson
Jennifer Reeves
Guy Sherwin

25 Filmmakers for the 21st Century

(emerging artists beyond the top 50)

1. Tomonari Nishikawa	23
2. Jim Finn	15
3. Daichi Saito	13
4. Luis Recoder & Sandra Gibson	11
Laida Lertxundi	11
Alexandra Cuesta	11
Kevin J. Everson	11
8. Shiho Kano	10
Vanessa O'Neill	10
10. Paul Clipson	9
Sylvia Schedelbauer	9
Emily Richardson	9
Paul Chan	9
14. Ryan Trecartin	8
Soon Mi Yoo	8
Hannes Schüpbach	8
Gretchen Skogerson	8
Minyong Jang	8
Fern Silva	8
20. Bobby Abate	7
Rebecca Meyers	7
Jonathan Schwartz	7
Andrew Lampert	7
Chris Kennedy	7
Matt McCormick	7