

THE MERCHANT OF ILLUSIONS

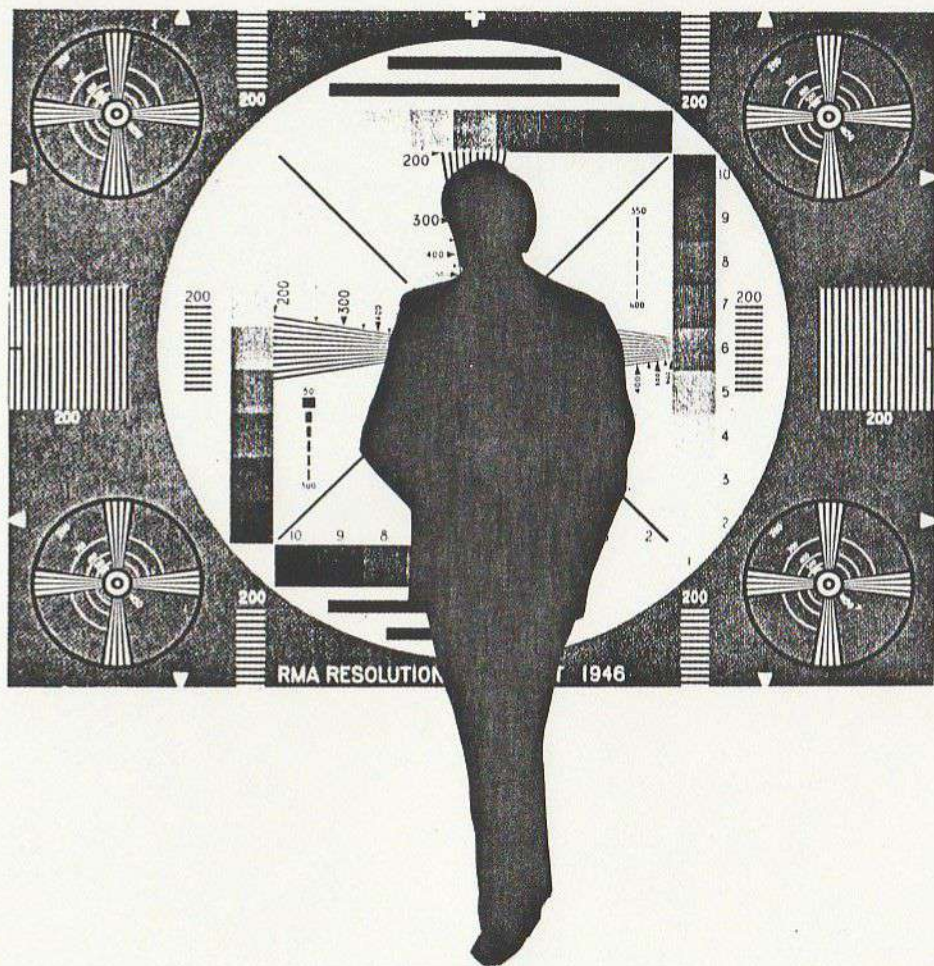
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A SCRIPT

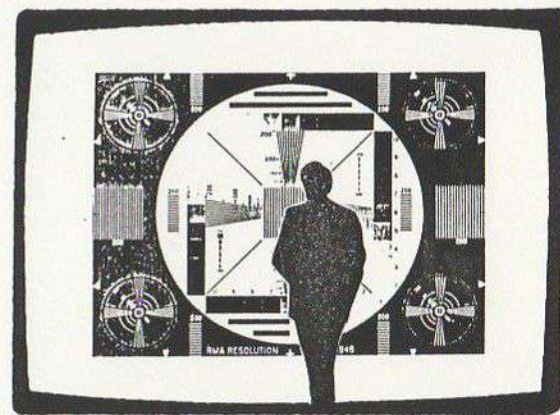
'THE MERCHANT OF ILLUSIONS'

de script

**CLAUDIO GOULART**



V T



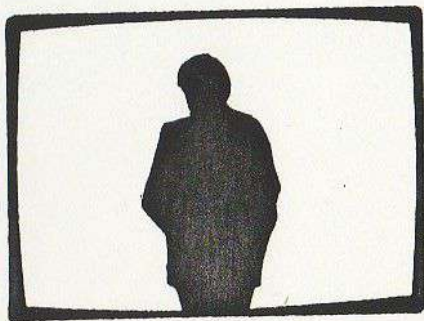
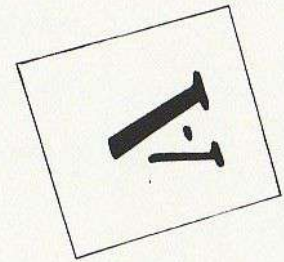
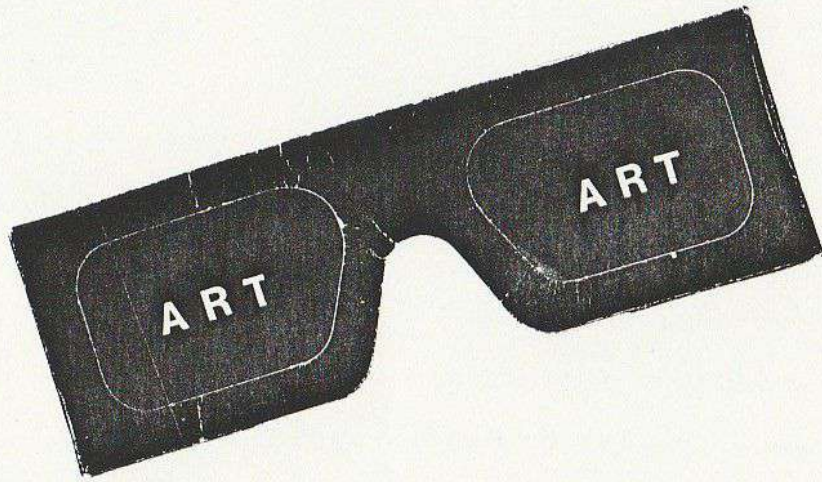
T V

Atmosphere of a television studio just before going on the air.

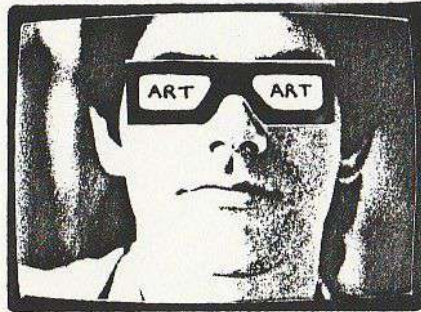
Tv test pattern on the background/ stencil/ behind stencil live image is repeated, shot straight from a monitor screen.

The word ACTION flashes on the screen. Performer tells camera to aproach/ zoom to close up on sun glasses/ word ART on sun glasses.

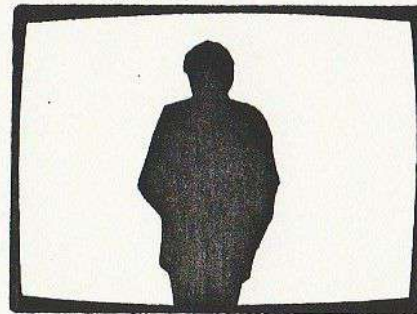
Back to total. Performer tells camera to aproach/ zoom to close up mouth. Performer takes letter A out of his mouth and says A/ cut.



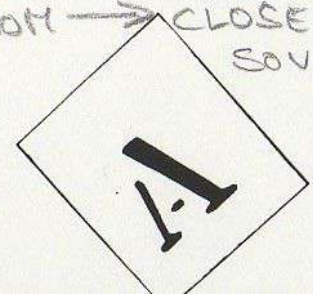
ACTION  
CALL CAMERA →



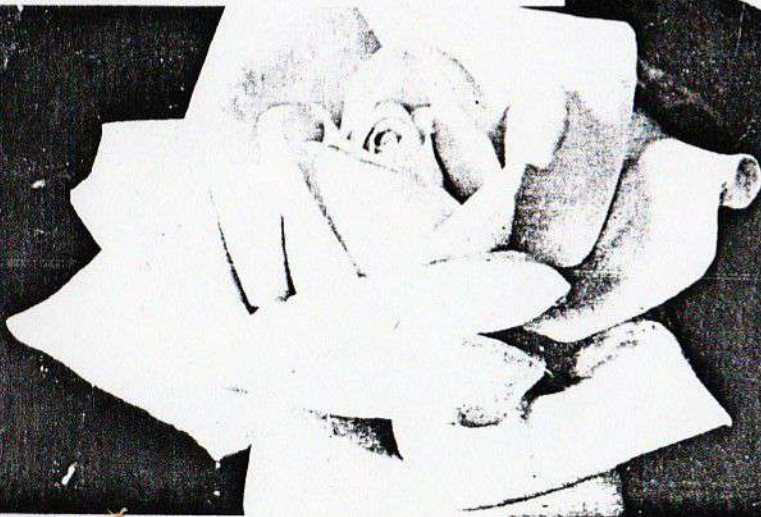
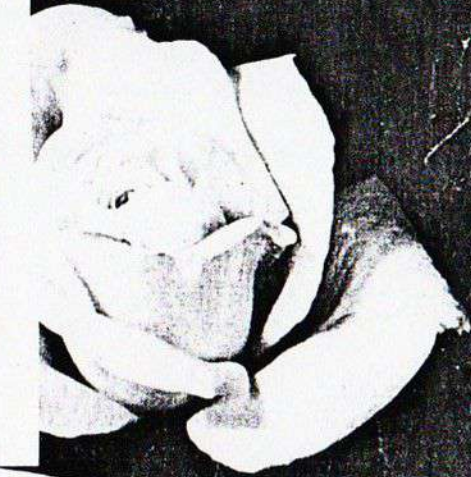
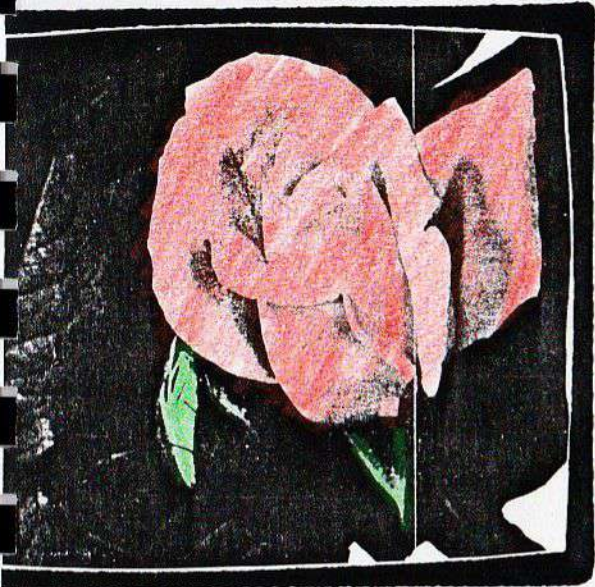
CLOSE UP/ART



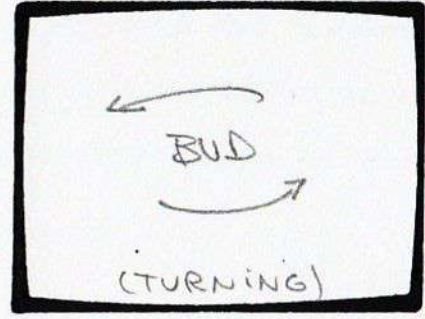
CALL CAMERA/ZOOM → CLOSE UP/A  
SOUND A



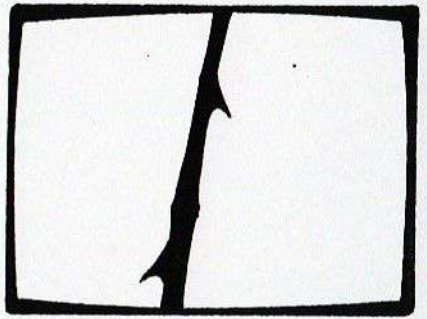
Medium. Short takes of blowing colored balloons: when full a balloon is set loose and the camera tries to follow its trajectory. Image freeze each time camera catches a balloon. Word balloon flashes on the screen at each freeze. For the background another camera shots balloon resulting on a color field.



**B U D**

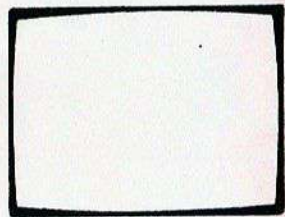


TILT DOWN →

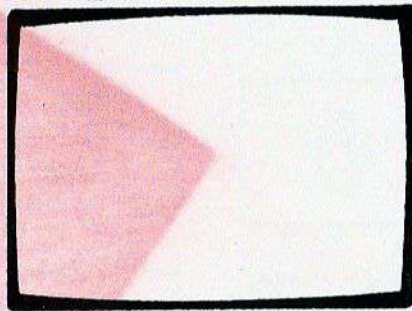


THORN  
BALOON BURST

Red baloon close up/ fade to a red rose bud/ word Bud flashes on the  
screen/ tilt down/ a hand removes a thorn/fade /using it to explode  
the red baloon/ word BOMB flashes on the screen/ sound of explosion.



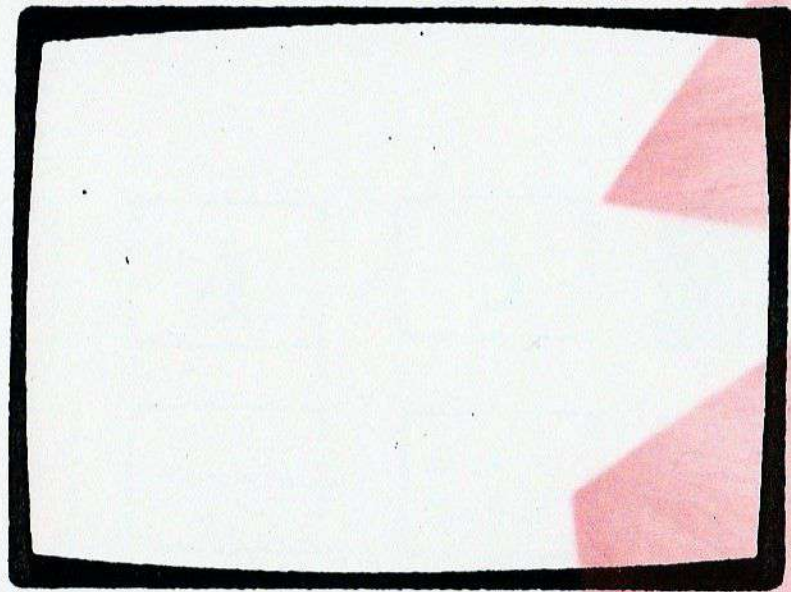
BALLOON



BLOW



B

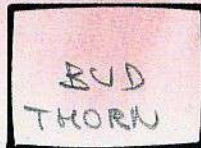


BOMB

BALLOON BURST  
SOUND



INTERCUT



BUD  
THORN



B

B

COUNT DOWN / FILM / 8 SECONDS

8

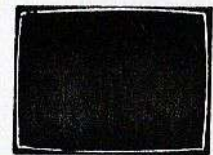
7

6

5

4

3



BALLOON

BLOW

BUD

BLOW

THORN

BALLOON  
BURST

SOUND  
BALLOON  
STRECHED

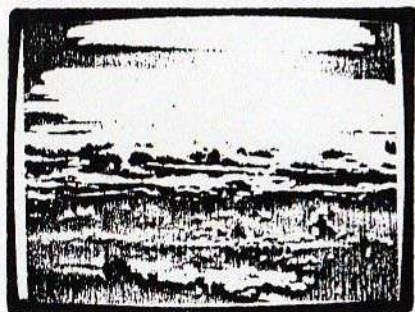


MIX

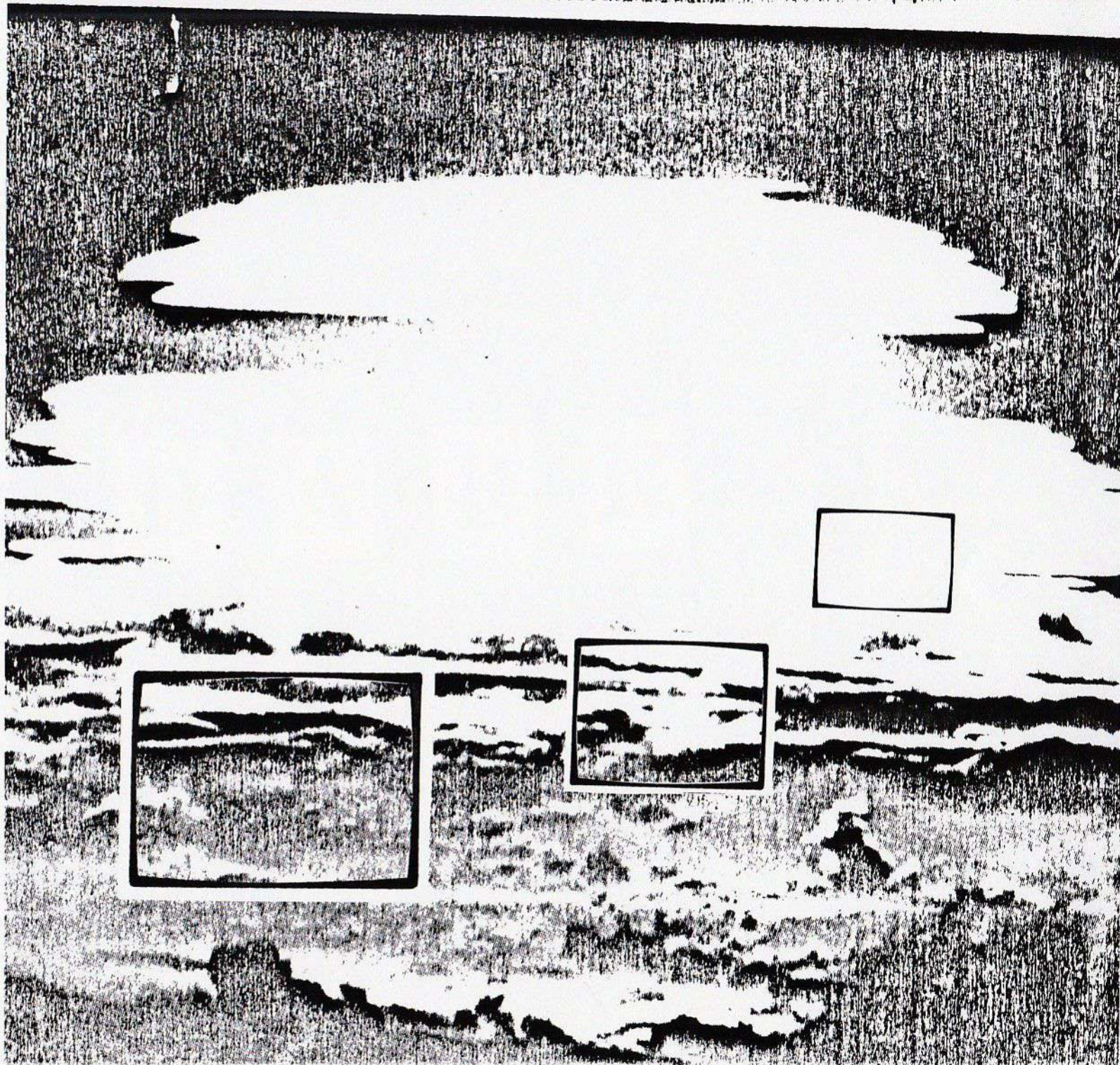
Mix/ 8 seconds/ flash back sequence Baloon-Bud/ mixed with film  
countdown numbers.

Word CINE/ projection of 16 mm film/ an atomic explosion made with  
photocopy enlargements from an image of the Bikini explosion.

# C I N E



SOUND STRECHED  
→



Word DARK/ a flash light flashes on white letters on black background.

Word EXPECTATION/ screen remains dark for some time/ sound of a clock.

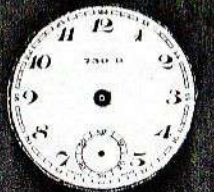
Screen remains dark. Image of the moon projected on a small paper flag. When flag is set afire an eclipse takes place as the image of the moon is transfered to another paper flag behind. FIRE/ FLAG.

D A R K

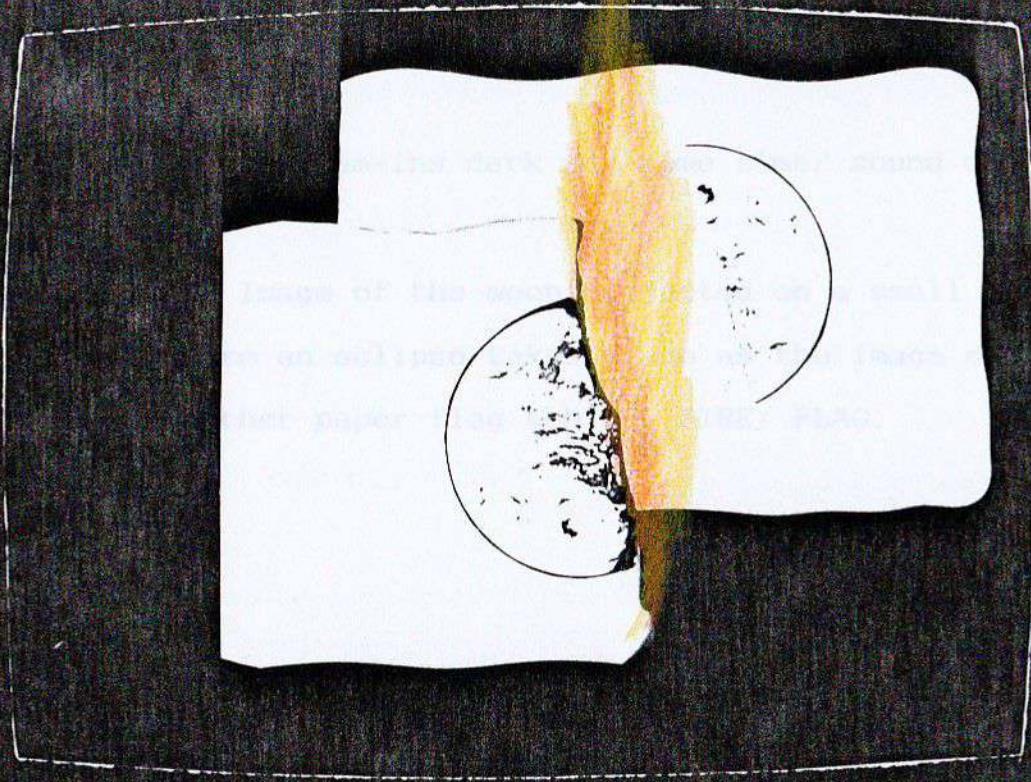
(FLASH LIGHT)



XPECTATION



SOUND CLOCK



FIRE / FLAG

(ECLIPSE)

Word DARK/ a flash light flashes on white letters on black background.

Word EXPECTATION/ screen remains dark for some time/ sound of a clock.

Screen remains dark. Image of the moon projected on a small paper flag.  
When flag is set afire an eclipse takes place as the image of the moon  
is transfered to another paper flag behind. FIRE/ FLAG.

Pan to the right. Camera leaves flag to focus on countless luminous points resembling the night sky with stars/ total/revealing themselves to be white letters projected on the walls of a television studio. Performer, behind a desk, prepares to read the news/ end pan on medium/ wearing a transparent plastic glove he holds a slice of bread and in his other hand a newspaper (Le Monde). Sound countdown (bip)/ quick close up on bread/ last bip/ news reader repeats the same news over and over while filling his mouth with bites of bread until the sound of his voice is jammed.

News reader takes out of his mouth the bread he has chewed, wrapping it the waste in the plastic transparent glove (by simply reversing the glove as he takes it off his hand)/ close up on plastic glove

(now resembling a waste bag)/ word HUNGER.

News reader text: "after some years there is some consciousness of the fact that fifty million human beings die of hunger every year, there is another variant, hundred and sixty thousand dead every day... after some years there is some consciousness of the fact that..."

# NEWS

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...

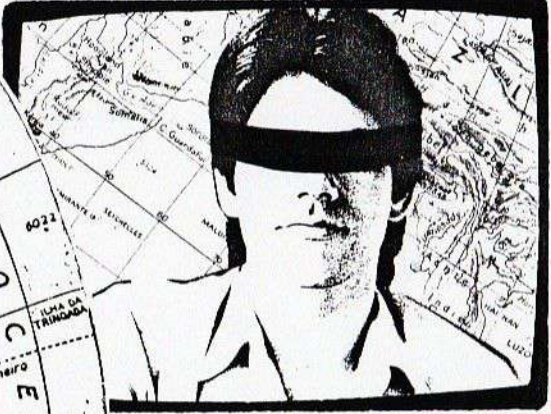
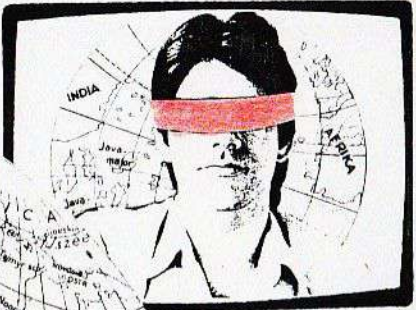
OR-

in

# GAG



# HUNGER



HISTORY  
HERO



H

HOLLYWOOD →

A light circle on the bockground. Performer blindfolded with a white ribbon / word GLORY / unfolds it uncovering a red ribbon behind. Background light circle fades into another of an endless pan on a classical facede - actually this effect is achieved with a close up on a rotating cilinder made with photocopies / word HISTORY.

And he unfolds the red ribbon uncovering a black one behind. Background circle fades into another endless pan on a red brick wall - another rotating cilinder / word HERO.

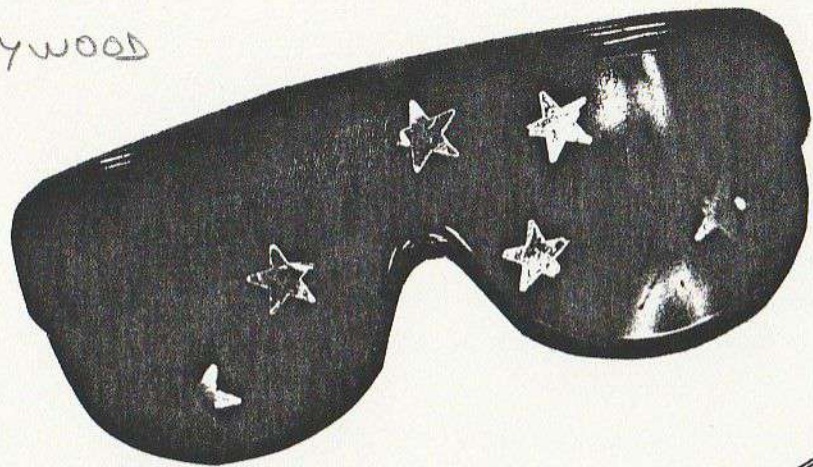
Performer puts on sun glasses (movie star style) covering the black ribbon. Background circle fades into another endless pan on dancers dresses hanging from a clothes-line / word HOLLYWOOD.

Background shot: camera unfocus white letters (now stars as in last shot) and pans to the right until the world (map turning record) fills the whole frame.

Pan to the right showing performer/ zoom slow to close up/ blindfolding himself with a white ribbon/ and with a black ribbon on top of the white one/ and with a red ribbon on top of the black one/ word HISTORY/ opens his shirt uncovering a red T-shirt/ word HERO/ and puts on sun glasses covering the red ribbon/ word HOLLYWOOD/ end zoom.

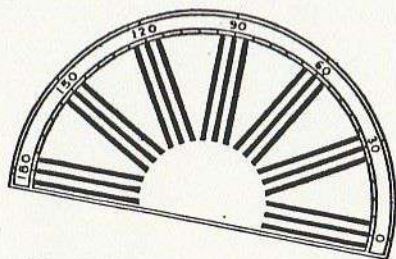
Performer places an optical test chart in front of the camera/ focus is corrected during shot suggesting the eye trying to focus/ when focus is achieved it is possible to read the word IMAGE printed on optical test chart.

HOLLYWOOD

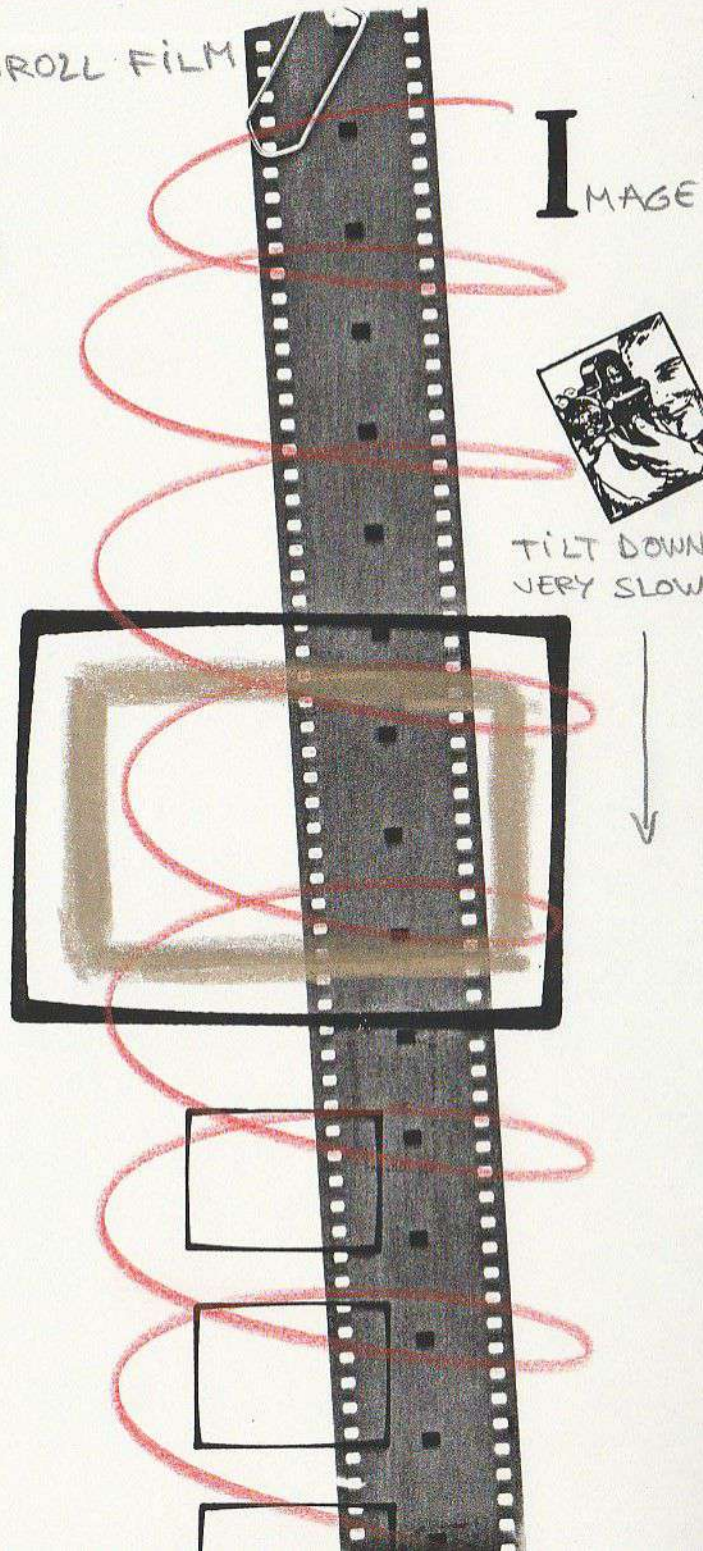
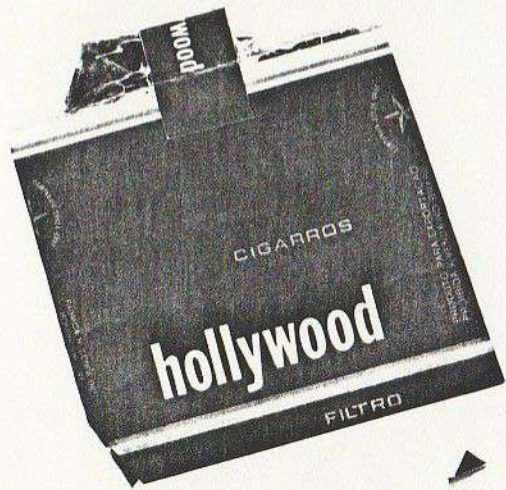


TO UNROLL FILM

IMAGE



O E B T  
C T D O E  
F E D O T C  
I M A G E  
O P D L E F N C  
O E T N F L D B P  
D O B E T N L C P P



TILT DOWN  
VERY SLOW

Performer holds with one hand a small gold frame and with the other a film roll. Gold frame frames film unrolling / word IMAGE / gold frame out, film unrolling, on the background tilt on an image of a movie star. Film unrolled / word IDEAL.

Cross fade movie star with an endless pan on palm trees - another rotating cilinder / word JOURNEY.

A hand holds a small gold frame, framing the word IMAGE printed  
on the optical test chart. The other hand holds a film roll/  
film unrolls falling behind the gold frame/ fade to movie star image/  
word IDEAL / tilt down very slowly, until a small gold statue  
being rolled up by the film is on frame/ word IDOL.

Sequence for the background:

Fade/ to a close up of a movie star/ a series of images printed on  
cardboard records/ Horizontal slow scan combine with movement of record  
turning deforms face features/ when this process is completed another  
face appears on the screen.

Word IDEAL

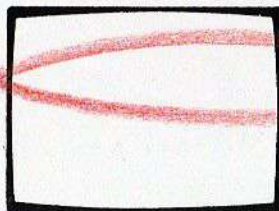
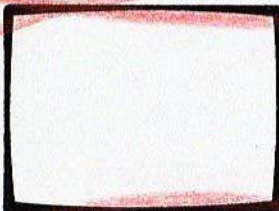
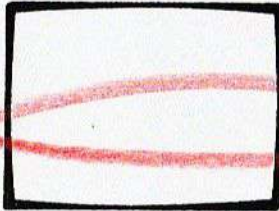
TILT DOWN

FILM UNROLLS



IDEAL

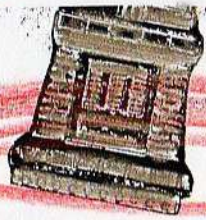
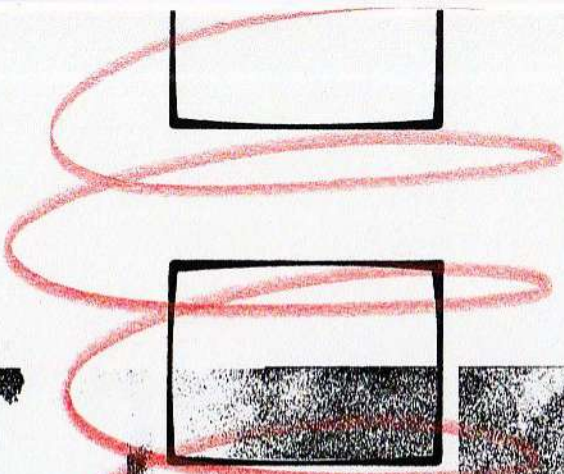
SLOW SCAN / STARS CLOSE UPS



TILT  
DOWN



FILM UNROLLS



CILINDER  
ROTATES

**IDOL**



POSTCARD

←  
CILINDER  
ROTATES  
→

J O U R N E Y

Background fades from movie stars to an endless pan on the sky at sunset time - actually a close up on a rotating cilinder made with photocopies.

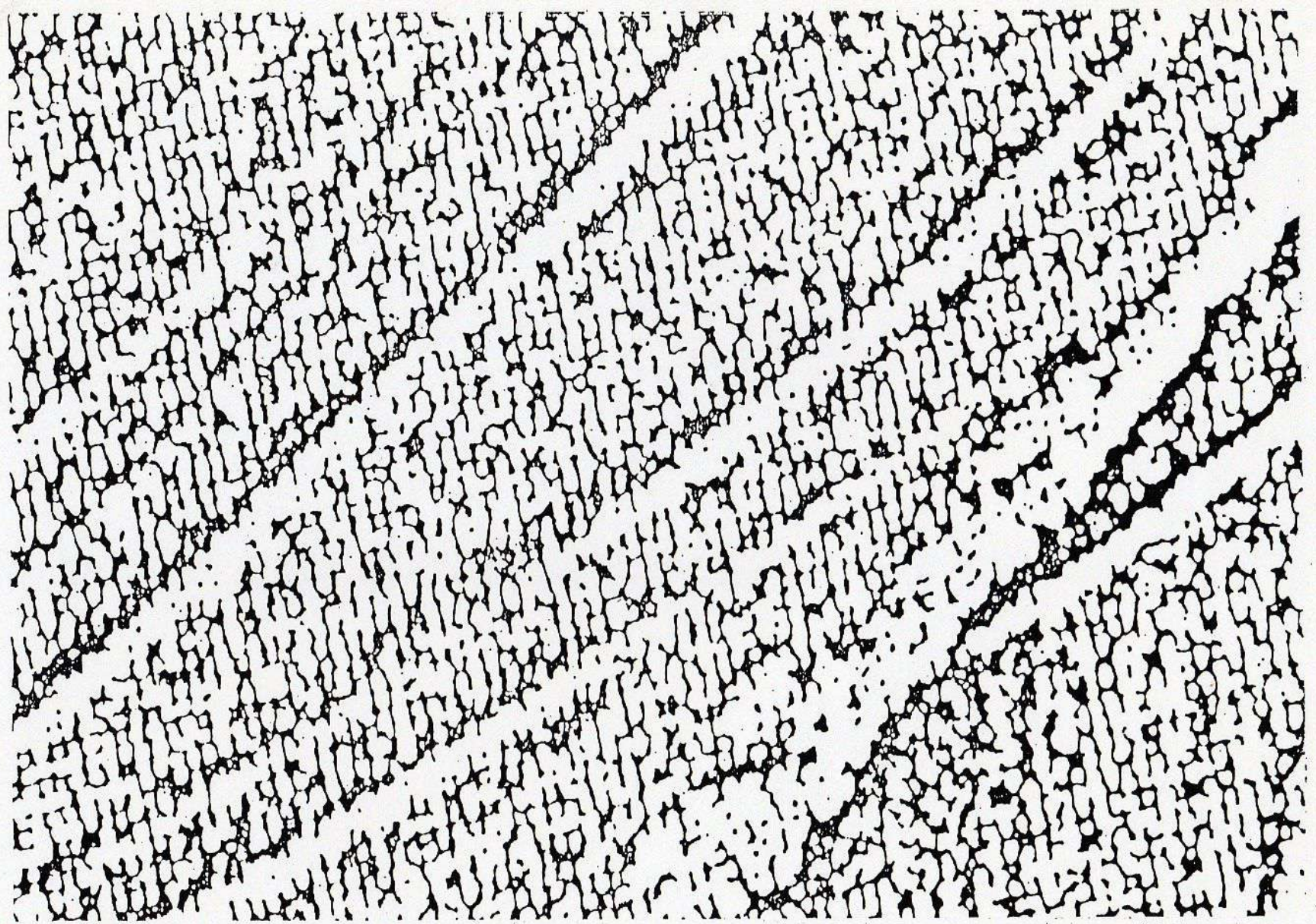
Intense light on (rotating) gold statue which becomes a lighthouse/ a sailing boat (a postcard)/ pan to the right, end in total, shows performer holding these props/ word JOURNEY.

Performer tells camera to aproach/ close up face.

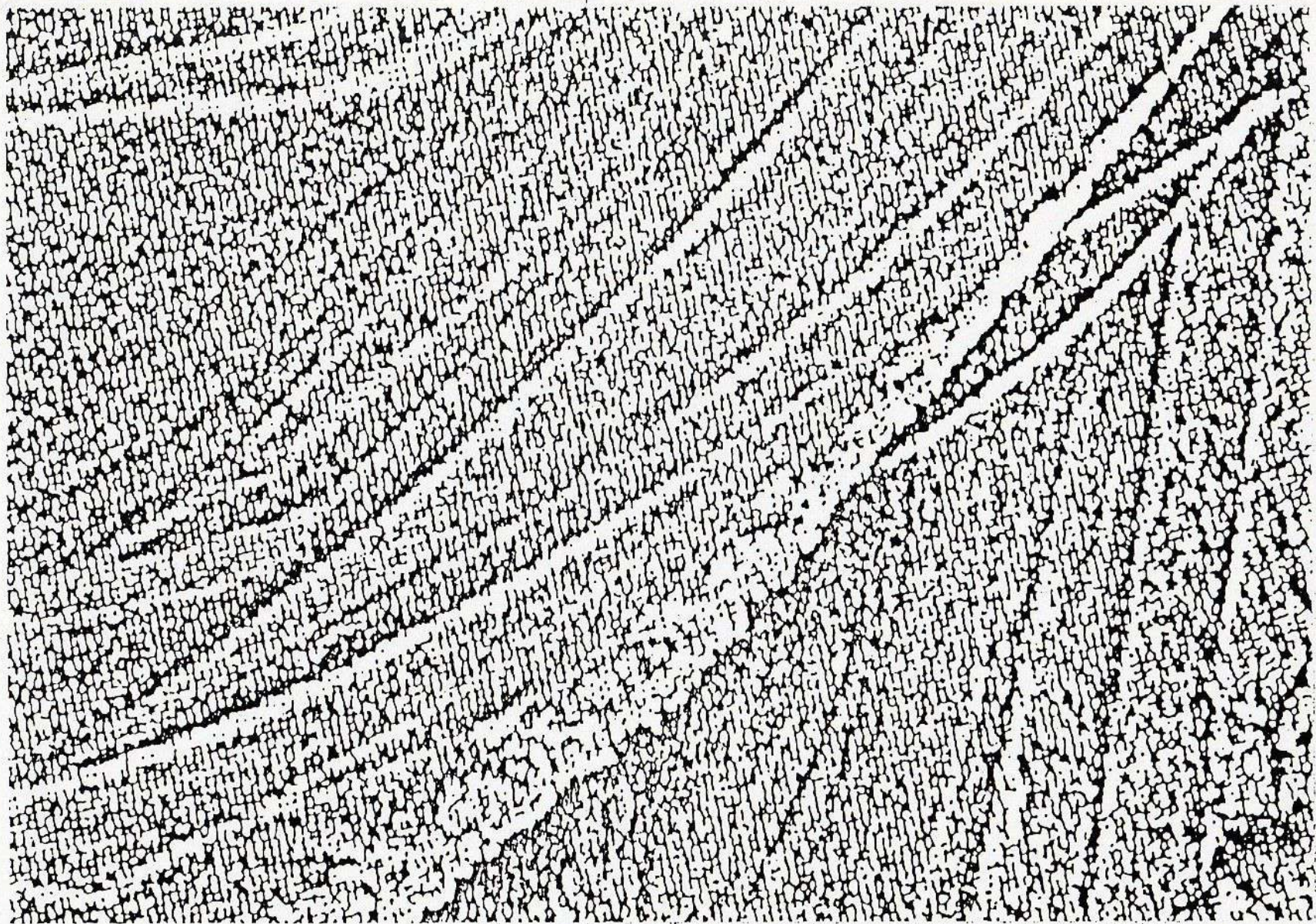
He shows a key/ he swallows the key/ one by one, he takes several letters printed on small (playing) cards/ using one of his hands at a time in a continuous movement.

Background fades to palm trees landscape (another cilinder)/ total.  
Face behind a hand mirror frame facing the camera/ red lipstick  
on lips/ printing lips on small papers (messages)/ intercut with  
close up hands filling a bottle with these papers (lipstick prints  
must be visible)/ cut to sea backgroud (another cilinder)/slowly  
to total/ bottle passes by afloat/ boat passes by sailing/ total  
showing performer holding objects/ word MEMORY.

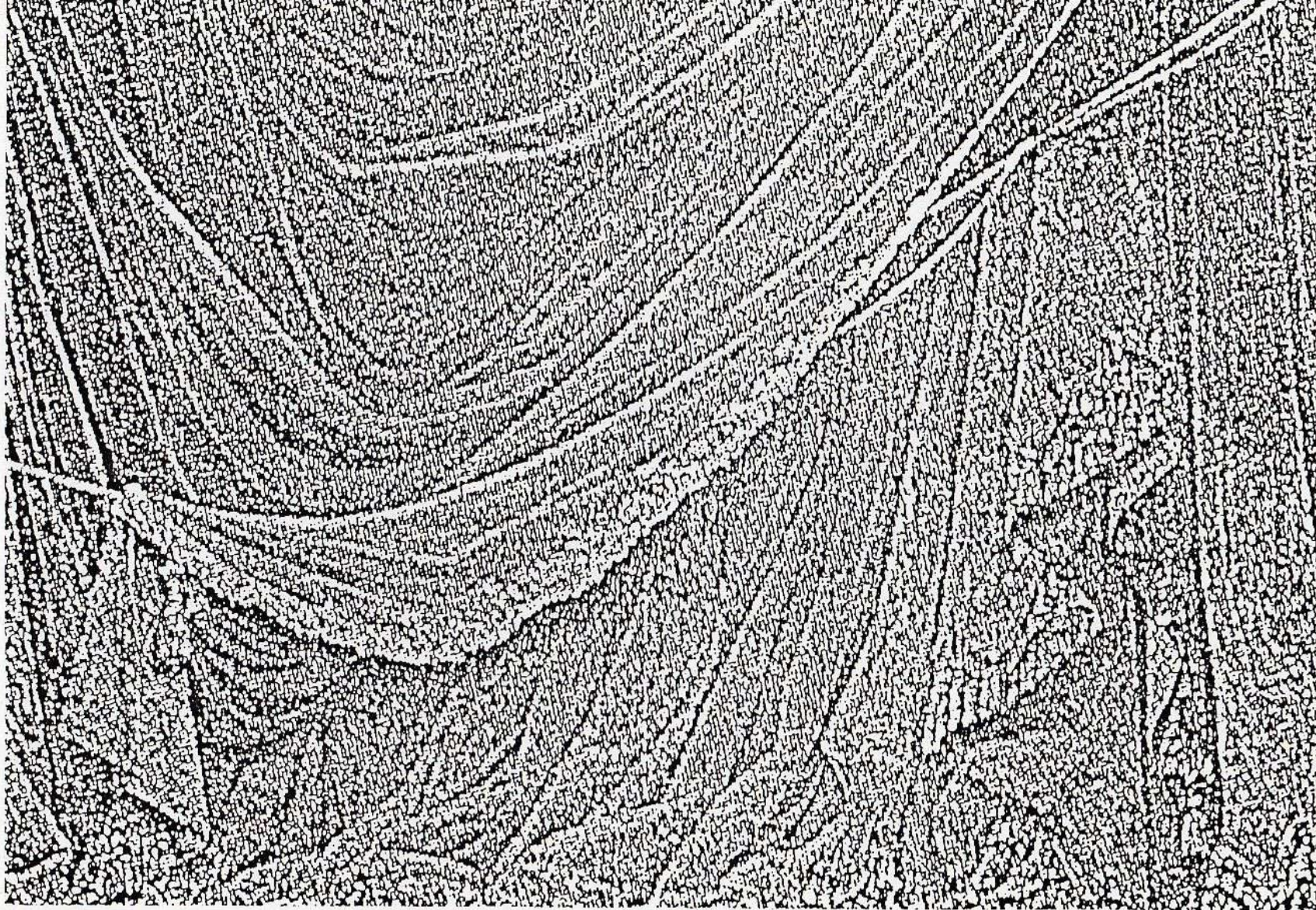
Cut to curtain close effect - animation with photocopy enlargements  
of the Paris Opera curtain.











(continued)



BACKGROUND  
CILINDER / PALM TREES

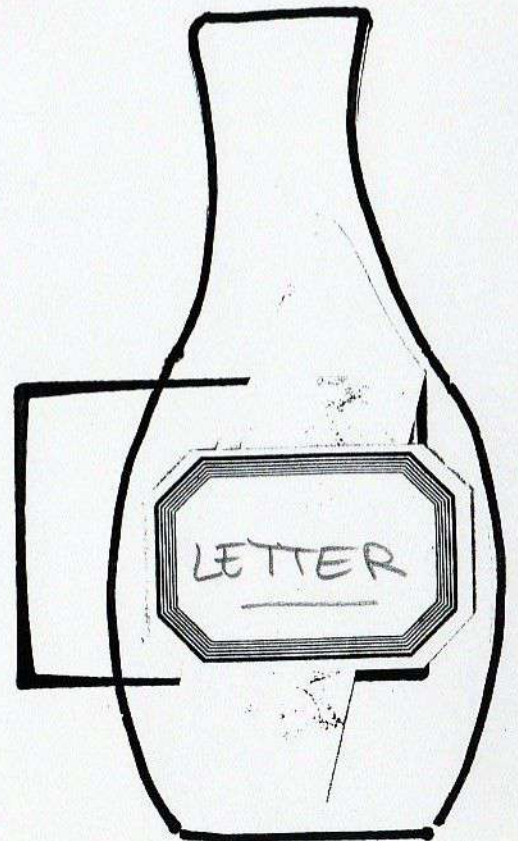
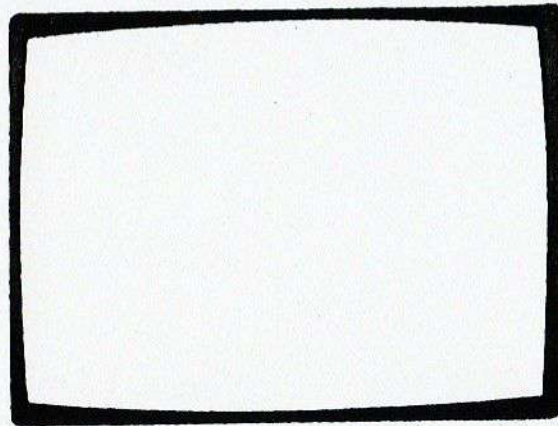
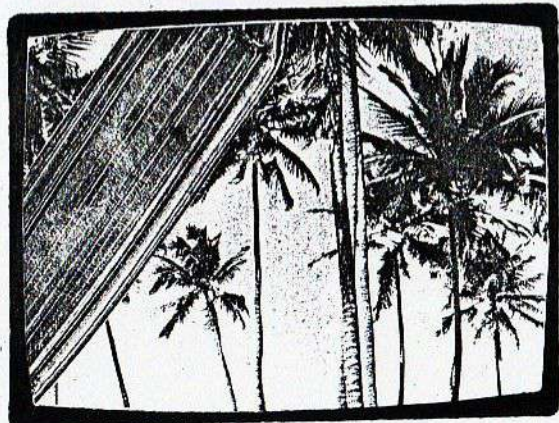
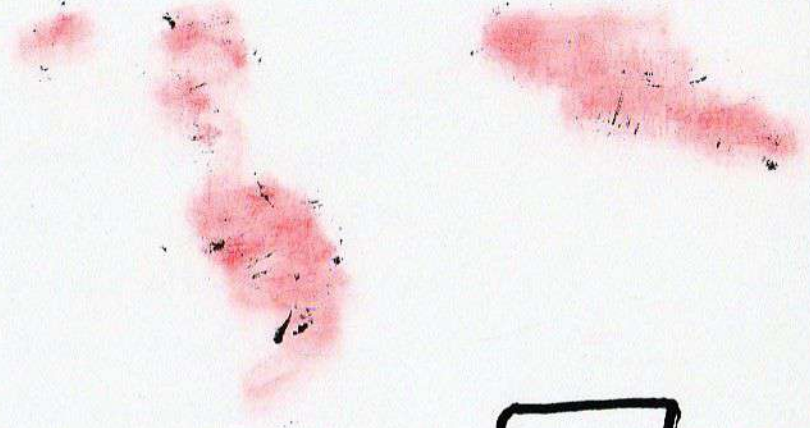
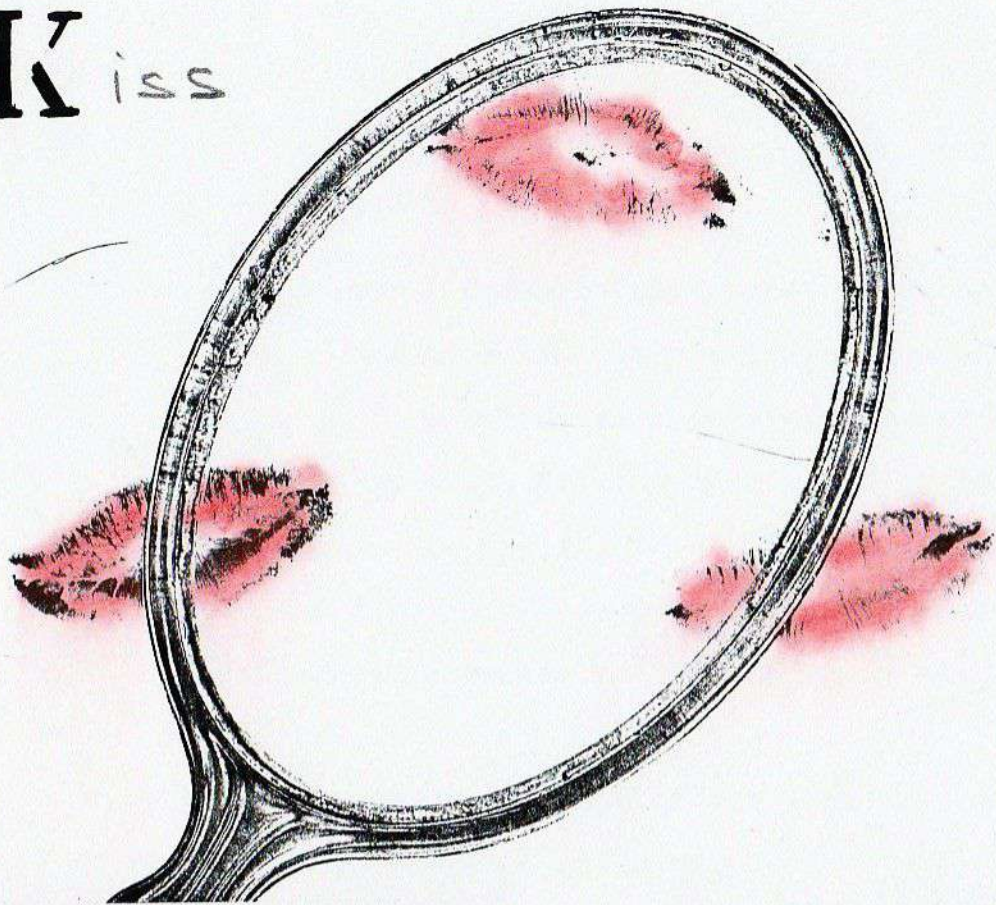


BACKGROUND  

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CILINDER SEA

Kiss



Close up mouth. Red lipstick on lips. Printing lips on  
small papers / word KISS.

Hand put papers in a small bottle. Hand holds bottle againsts  
the sea - actually another rotating cylinder, this time  
also simulating rough sea movements / word LETTER.

Cross fade to tilt on suitcase tower / word MEMORY.

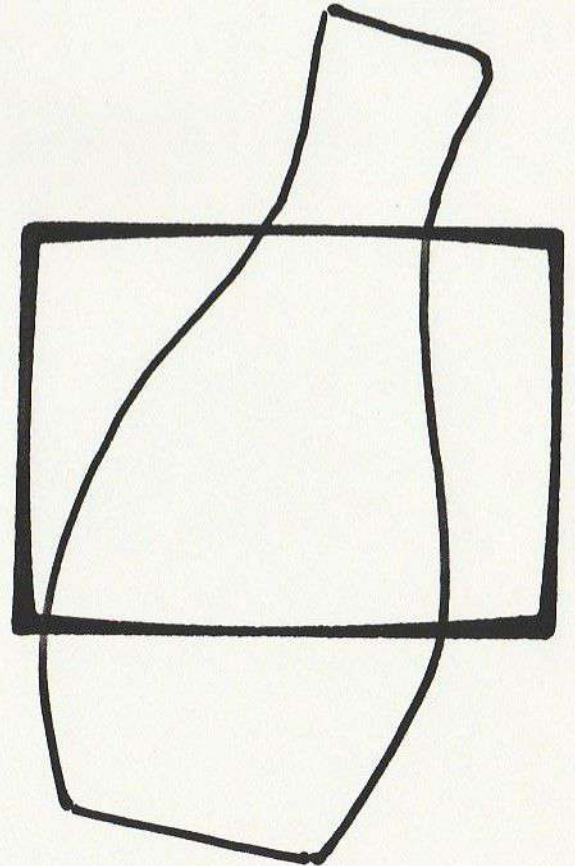
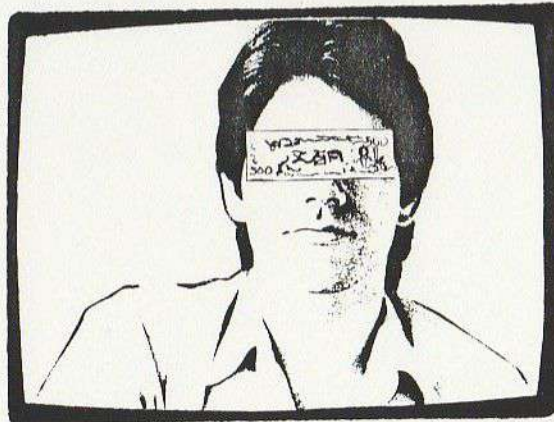
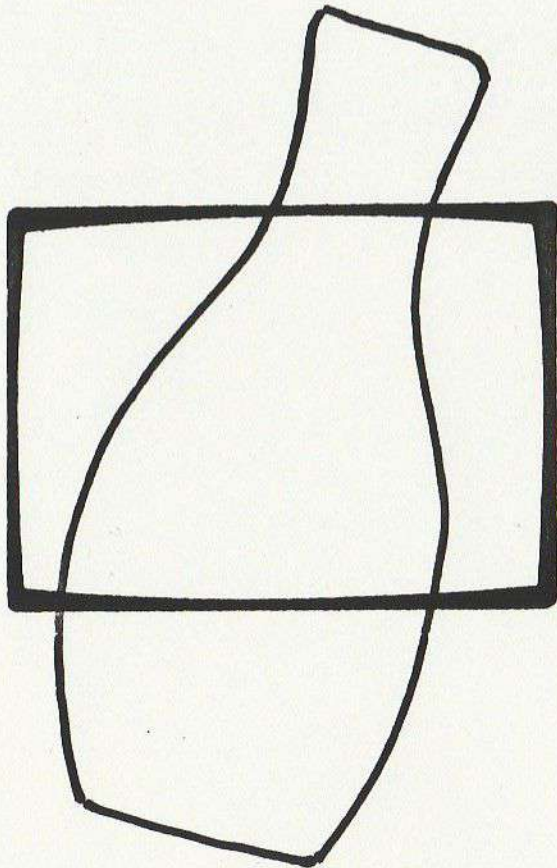
Performer snaps his fingers opening the eyes  
(daydream wake up) / word NOW.

Background fades to palm trees landscape (another cilinder)/ total.  
Face behind a hand mirror frame facing the camera/ red lipstick  
on lips/ printing lips on small papers (messages)/ intercut with  
close up hands filling a bottle with these papers (lipstick prints  
must be visible)/ cut to sea backgroud (another cilinder)/slowly  
to total/ bottle passes by afloat/ boat passes by sailing/ total  
showing performer holding objects/ word MEMORY.

Cut to curtain close effect - animation with photocopy enlargements  
of the Paris Opera curtain.



M A S K

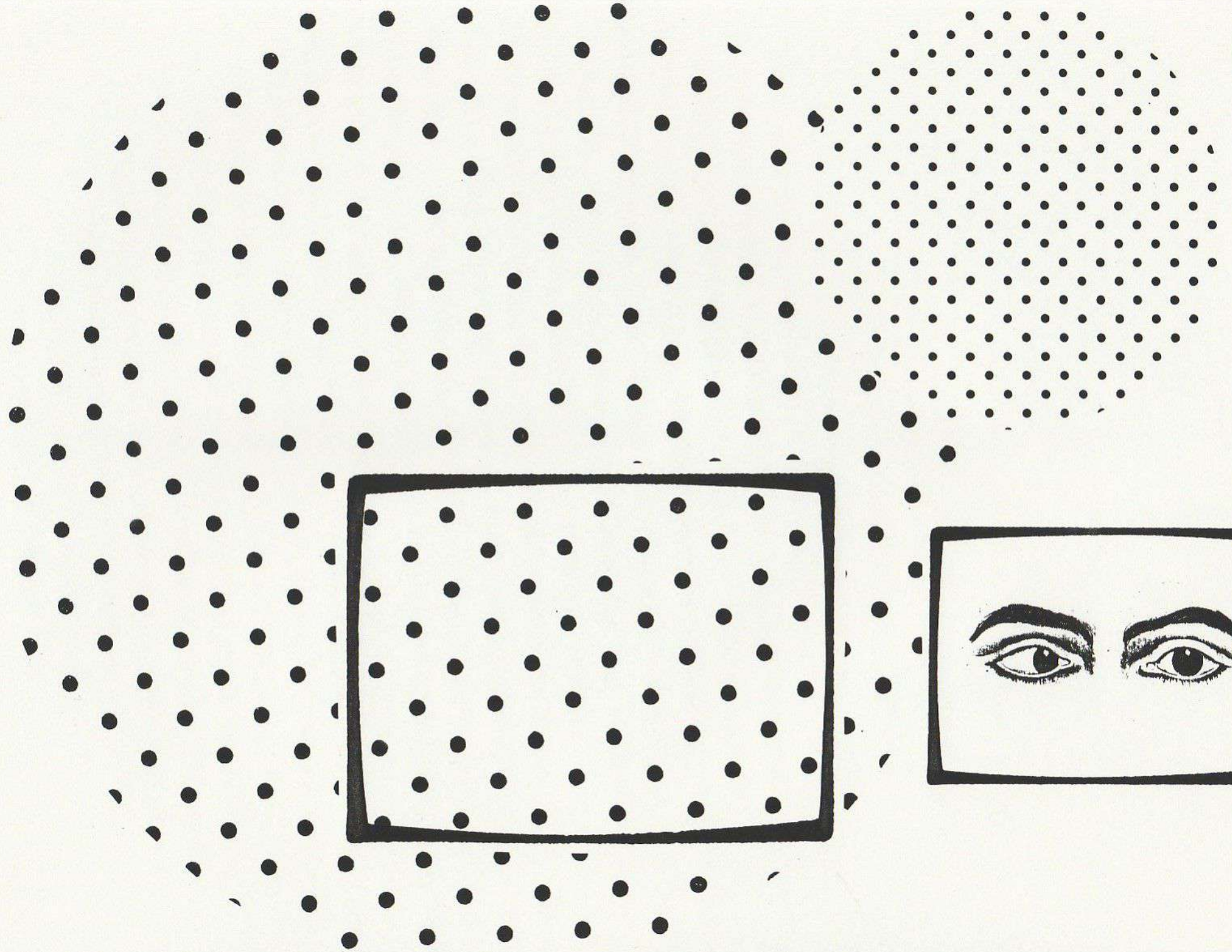


Close up face/ blindfolded with money/ word Mask.

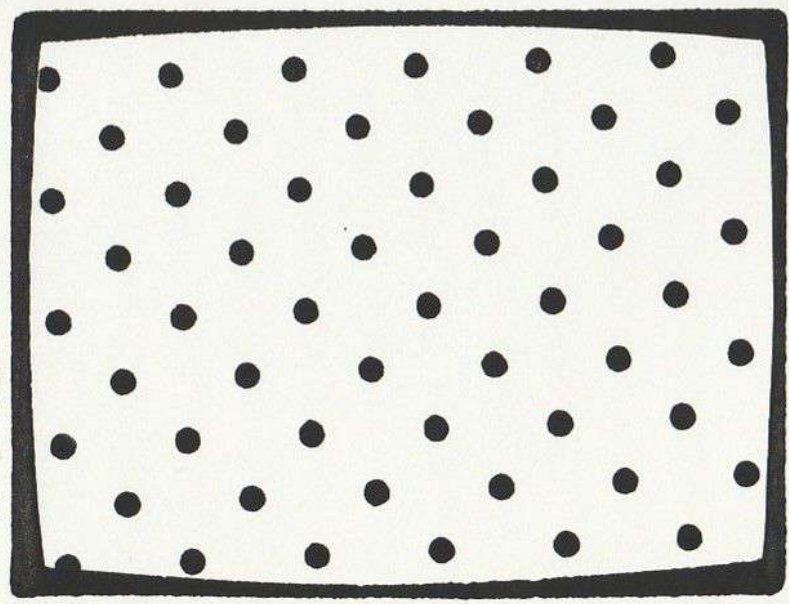
(shot continues) close up face/ he says NOW at the same time  
he snaps his fingers (also in frame)/ cut.

**N O W**

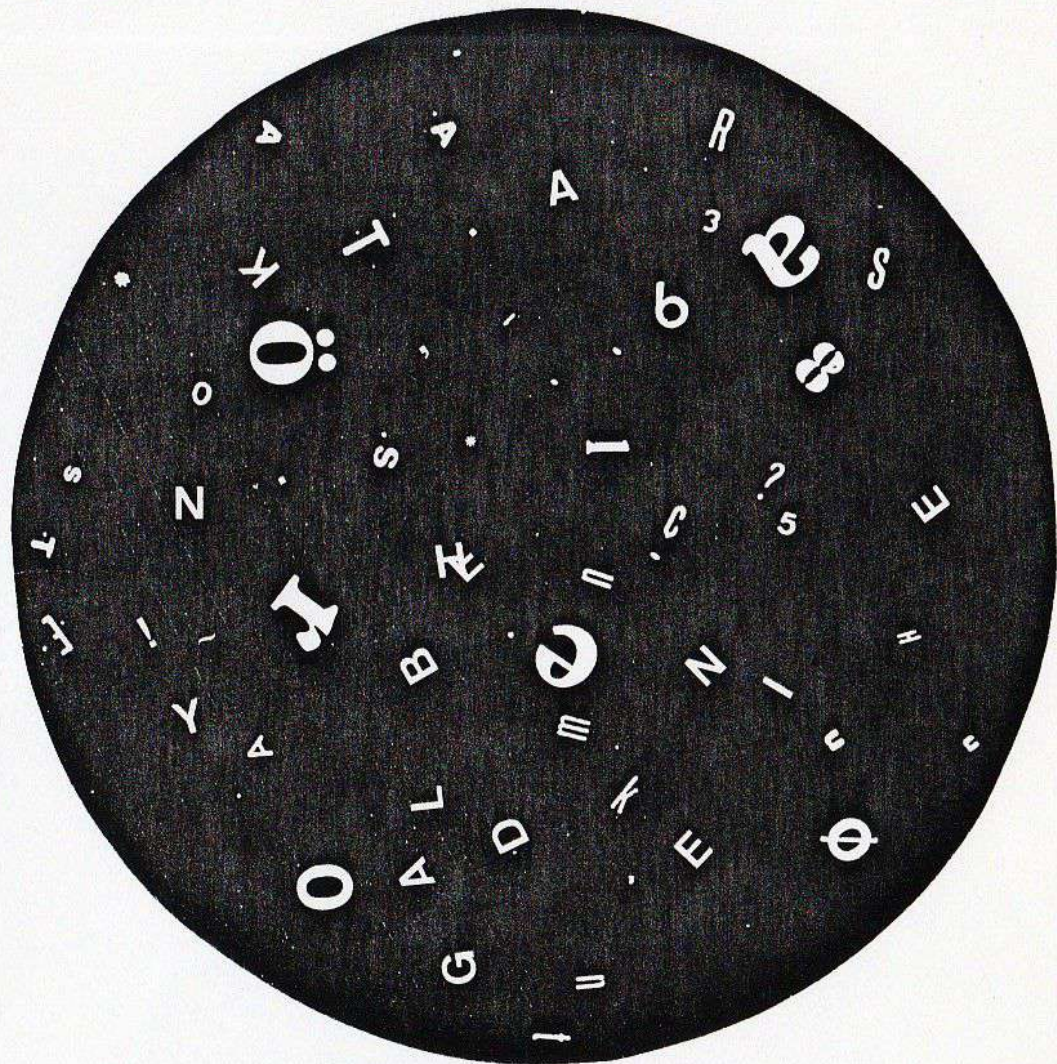
Close up black dots printed on white cardboard record. The image when turning produces an optical effect which may cause the viewer to get dizzy/ cut/ close up performers face rubbing his eyes to recover from that sensation.



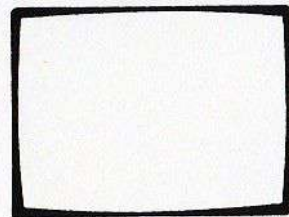
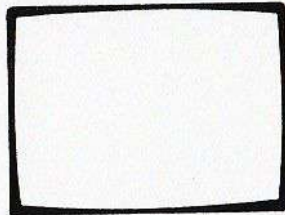
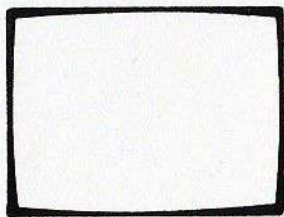
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Close up face facing the camera/ performer puts a photo (of himself when a child) in front of his face/ word PICTURE/ letter P remains at the screen bottom/ in the same way with a picture of the zenith/ white letters on black background and vice-versa/ a lined white paper sheet/ word ORDER/ letter O remains on the screen/ a red rose word EPHEMERAL/ letter A remains/ and slowly he pulls a (soft) meter out of his mouth/ he shows its length and says the word MESSAGE/ letter M completes the word POEM at the screen bottom.

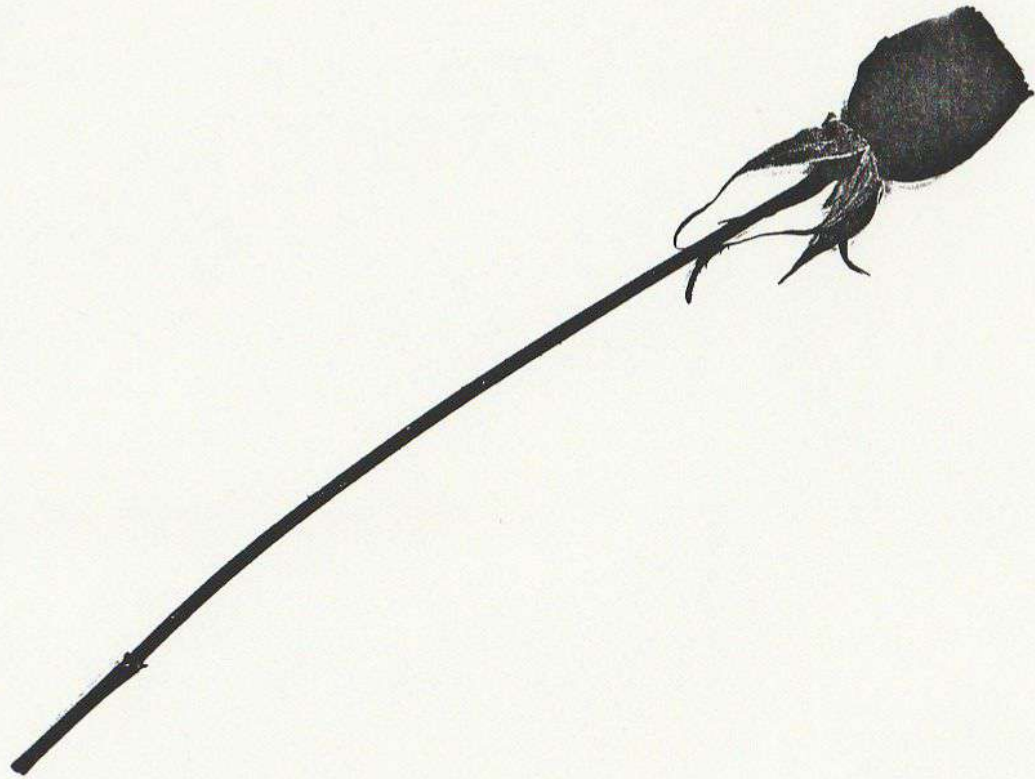


P



P

O

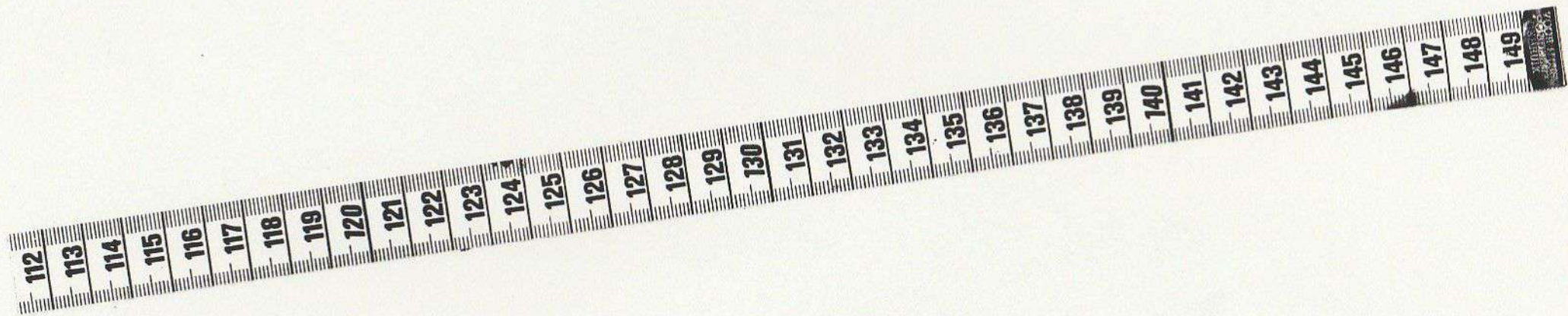


P

O

E

P O E A



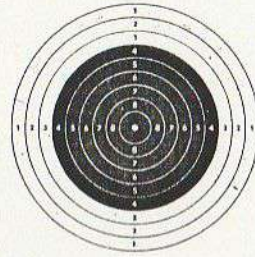
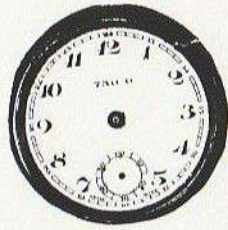
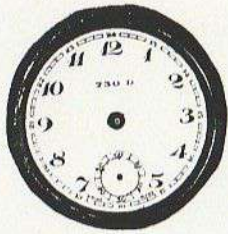
Pan along several mechanic acrobats, each turning on a record player (music Beethoven ?) / word PATTERN / until they stop the acrobacies.

They stop / word QUOTIDIAN.

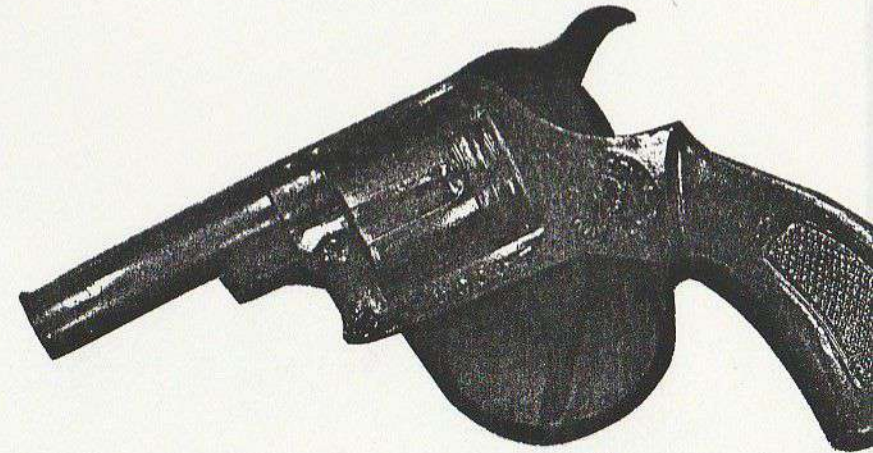
Performer cover his eyes with a bank-note (like sun glasses) / word REWARD.

A pair of clocks on the eyes/ word QUOTIDIAN/ open to medium /  
actually camera zoom out from a monitor now showing performer  
backwards watching his (live) image on the TV screen/ word REFLEXION/

(shot continues) Performer turns to the camera with a gun and shoots/  
word SHOT/ zoom to face (until now a darkish siluet)/ soft lightning  
reveal two round targets instead of the eyes/ word TARGET.

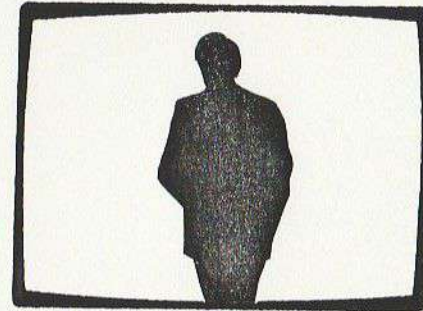
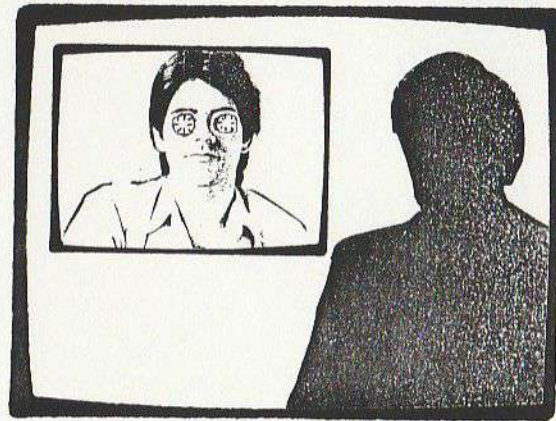


11



11

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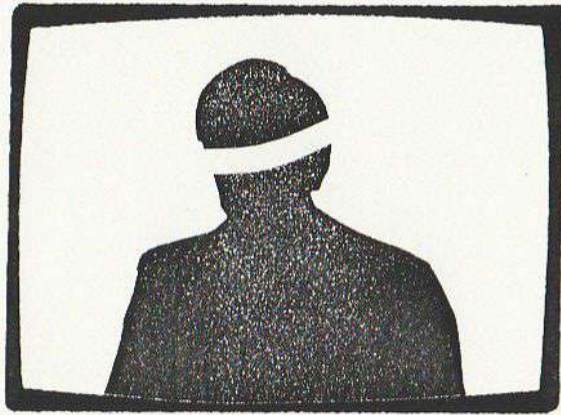


11

In the dark performer fires four shots towards the screen,  
and the four letters S H O T appear simultaneously on  
the screen as broken glass .

A turning target with a hart at the center / word TARGET.

Fade to a naked chest / word UNKNOWN.



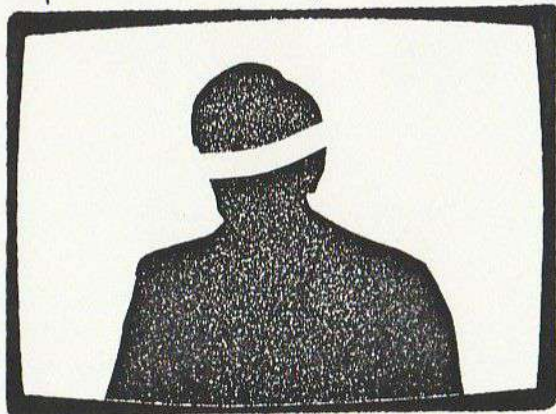
[ UNKNOWN ]

Close up face/ performer blindfolds himself with black ribbon/  
word UNKNOWN.

(shot continues) close up/ performer unfolds black ribbon and there  
is another (color) ribbon behind/ he unfolds again and there is  
another one behind/ and so on. Actually there is a set of ribbons  
behind the first (black) he used to blindfold himself.

Word VISION.

[ V I S I O N ]



W

Y

C

G

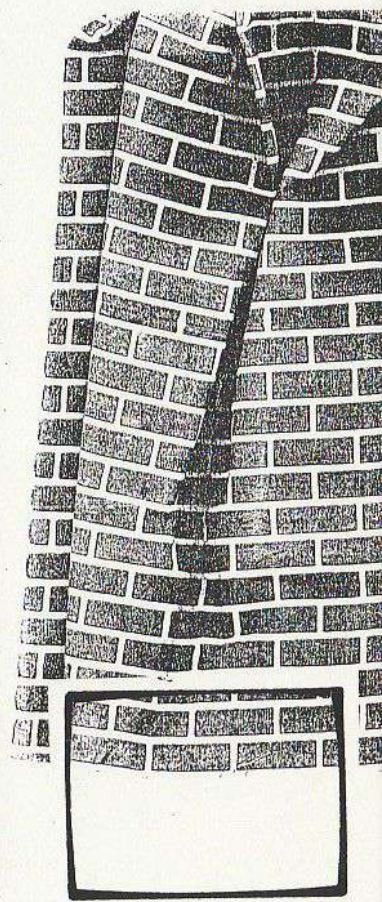
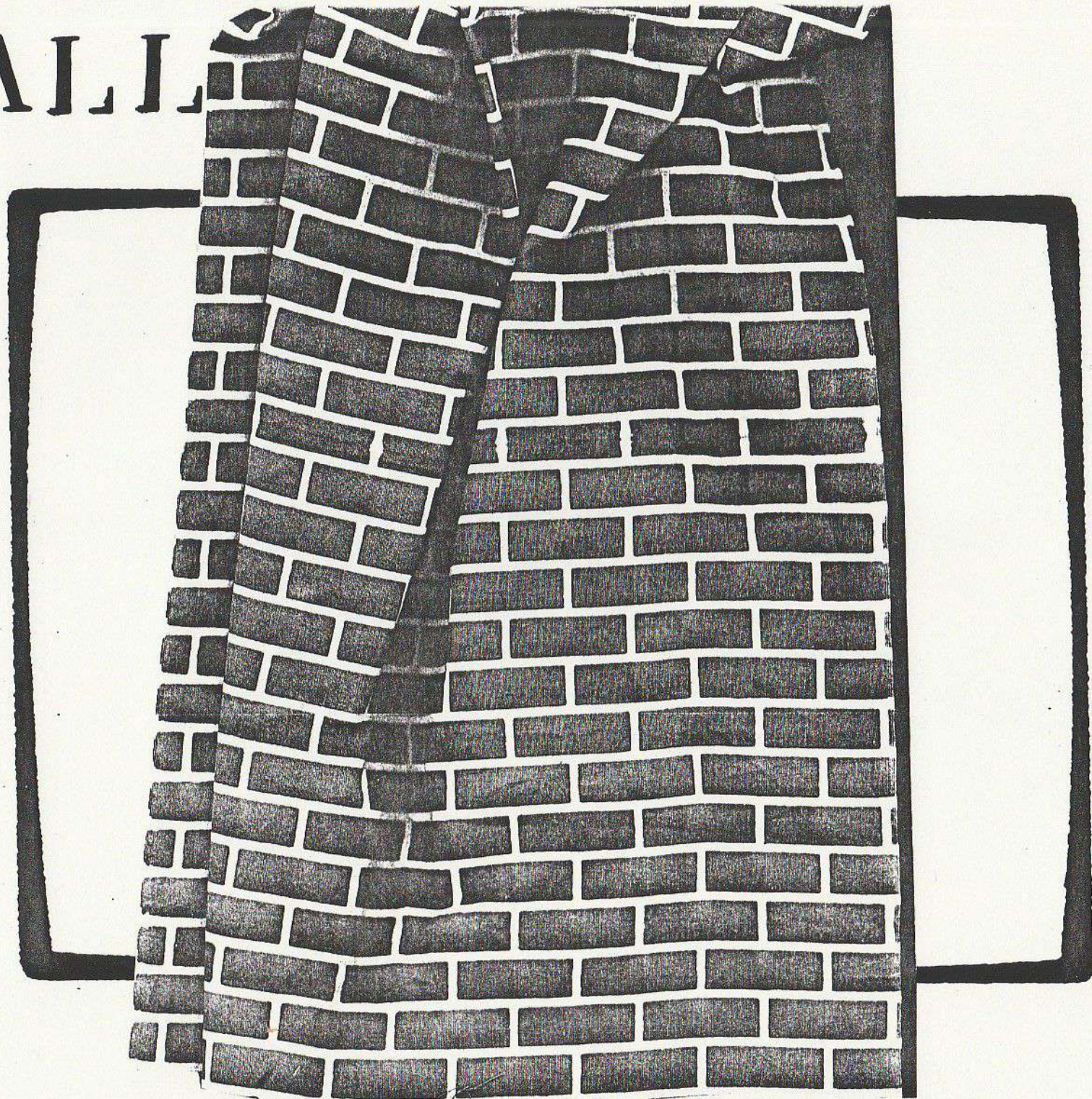
P

R

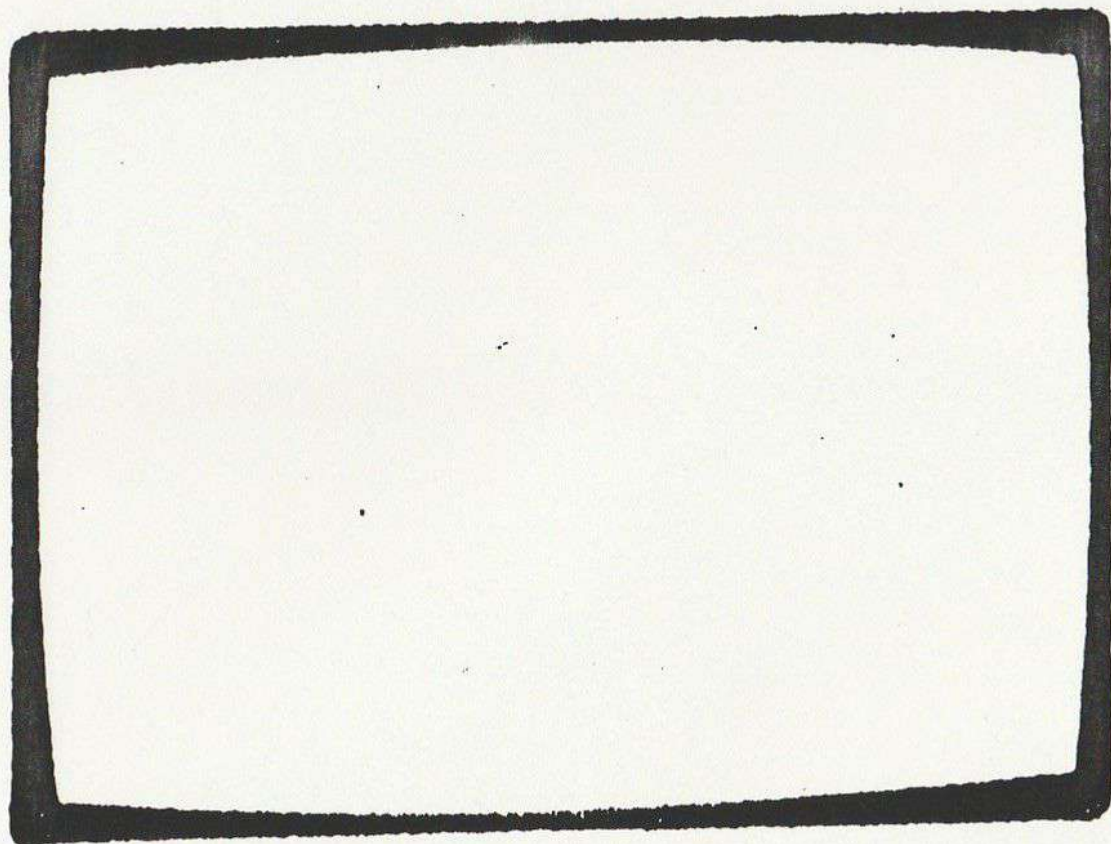
B

B

WALL

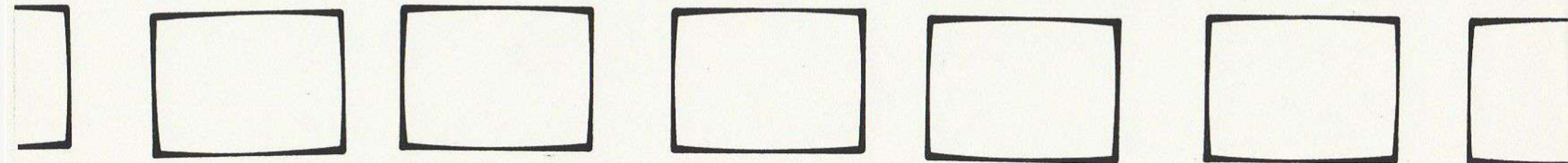
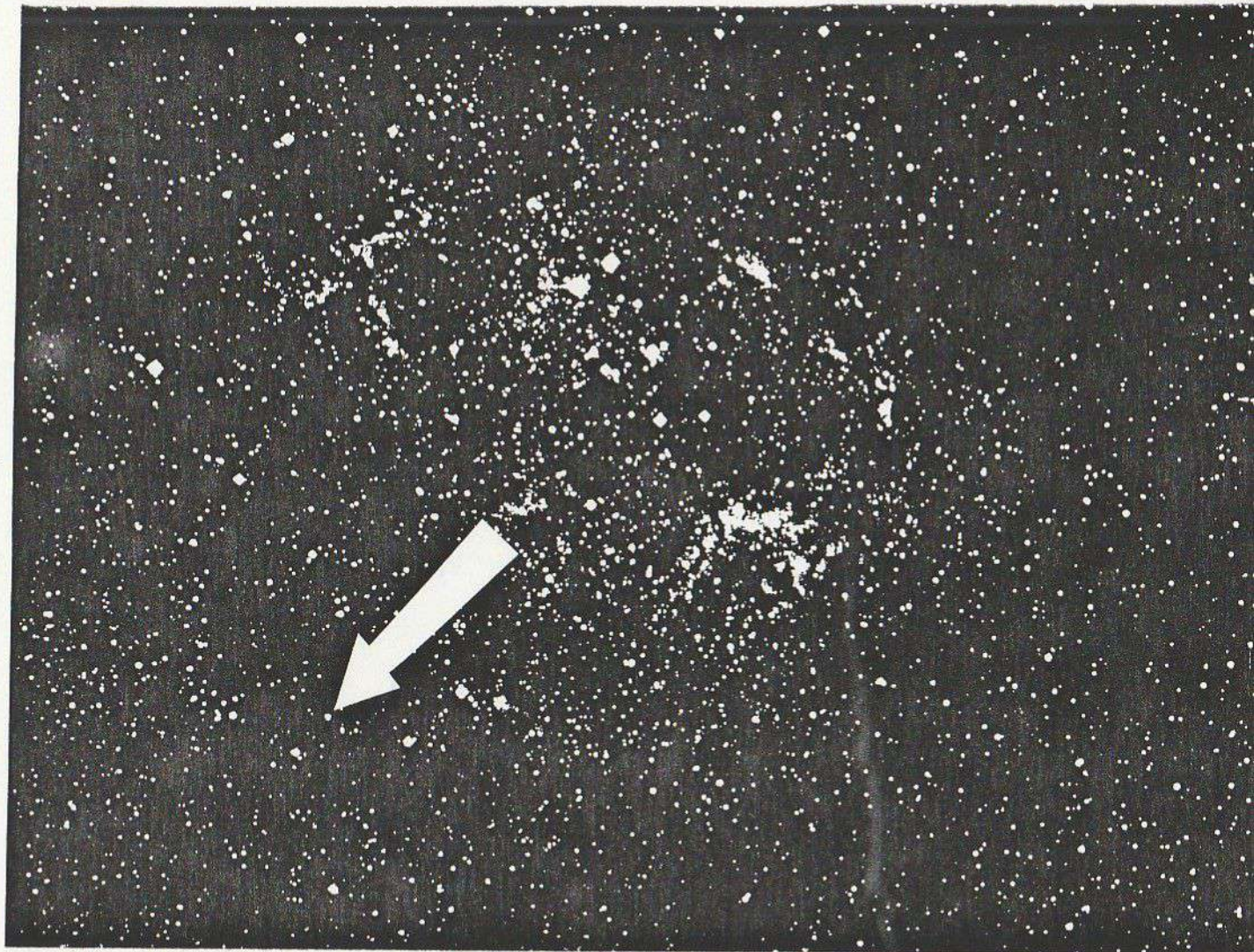


Letter X on the screen in the same way a photo is crossed out on  
a contact sheet.



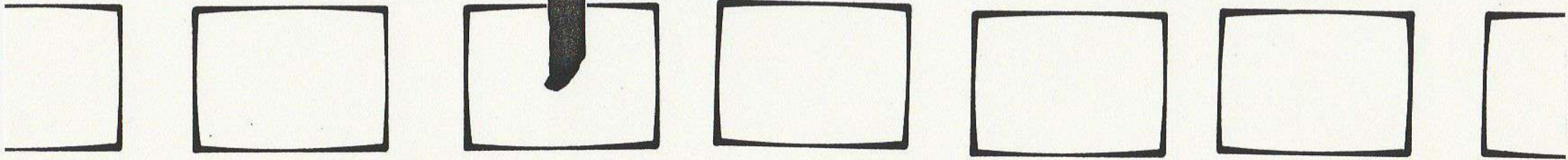
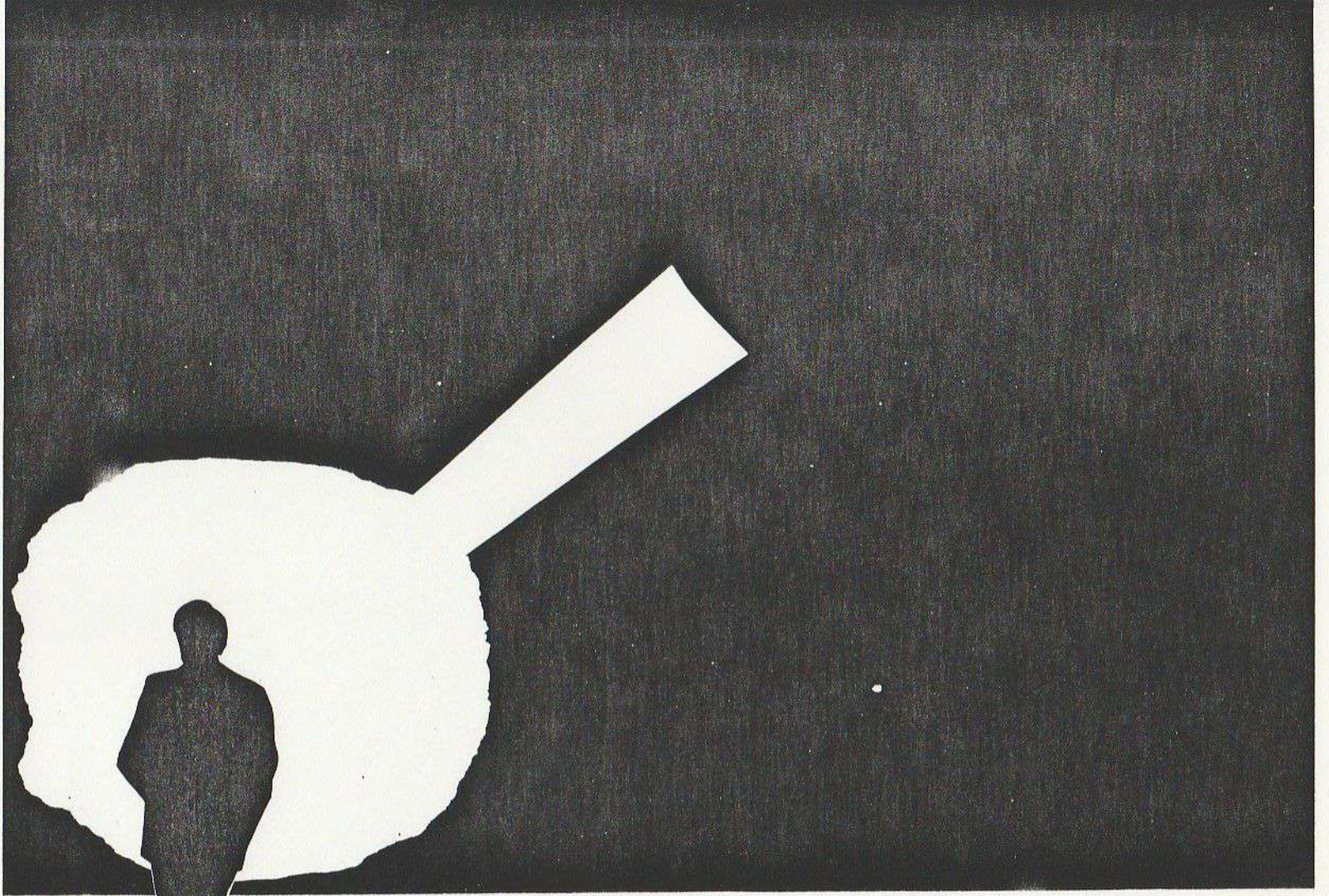
X

Y

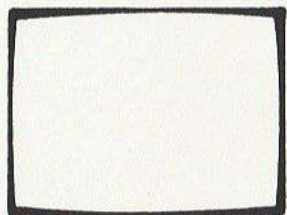


A wall/ word WALL/ wall moves and it seems we are falling along a high wall - actually a long cloth with wall pattern printed on it, is being pulled up in front of the camera. The effect at the end is of a rising curtain. When this curtain is open there is a large dark space suggesting the outer space. It seems we are moving into this space (but it is the illusion caused by slide projections of photocopy enlargements of an image of the outer space, in relation to the size of the room they are being projected. As the stars grow in size it is possible to recognize the relative small size of the room. Sometimes a small red arrow pointing always to the same star (enlargement) appears on the screen with the text YOU ARE HERE. By now it is possible to spot the performer (he was wearing black) He draws simple forms in the air with a battery torch towards the camera lens. When the largest star (enlargement), now a planet lights up performer, he points the battery torch right into the camera lens causing a bright shine on the whole screen. He says a dictionary definition of the word ZENITH. Projectors off, room lights on/ he leaves the scene: a white empty room. Credits on top.

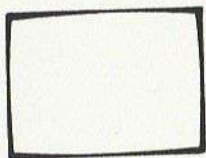
7

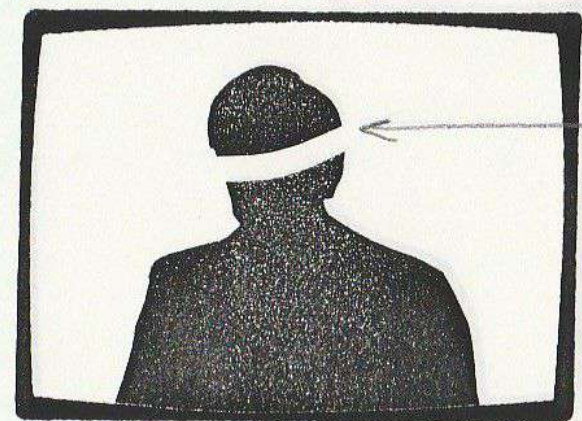


ZENITH n. Point of heavens directly above observer. Time or place of greatest power or prosperity or hapiness, the highest point.



**CLAUDIO GOULART**



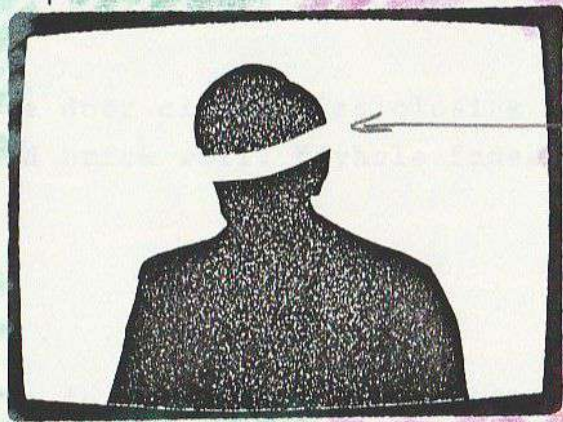
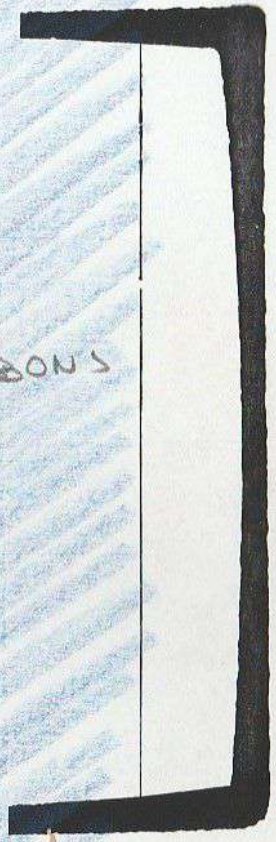
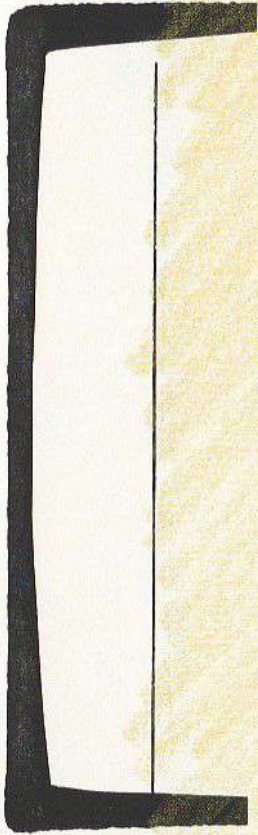


BLINDFOLD WITH  
BLACK RIBBON



[ UNKNOWN ]

[ V I S I O N ]



UNFOLD  
COLOR RIBBONS

W

Y

C

G

P

R

B

B