

SAY NOTHING by Andrew Noren

"THIS film is a single (Aurican synch-sound) take. In it a lovely young girl, with decent enlightened liberal sentiments, a real darling with may-be three divorces and twenty years on a psychiatrist's couch ahead of her, is morally browbeaten. The film-maker/camera-man's rumbling voice quietly menaces her, leading her into a conversational maze, giving her every opportunity to exhibit her limitations. The premise of the film-making session is a lie: she thinks she's taking a screen test....doesn't know THIS IS THE FILM. Her silly afternoon-TV New York actress ambitions, the narrow track of her decency...do not surprise us and it seems only cruel to relentlessly drag out whatever indication of debasement her efforts at winsomeness would conceal. But the rape continues until we have only an unhappy girl before us, wondering how it all went wrong. Unhappy but not broken; there's a surprisingly hard core of self-respect to her, a trueness to her emotions Andrew's presumption can't budge. Brooding and haunting without her cover, she is at last, because recognizable, profoundly lovable." Ken Jacobs, Aug. 1970.

THREE by Ernie Gehr 1970

CAROL EMSHWILLER IN A FILM BY ED EMSHWILLER by Ed Emswiller 1970

LEMON by Hollis Frampton 1969 (for Robert Huct)

EYES by Stan Brakhage 1971

"Polis is eyes," said Charles Olson, having found the archeological root of the word-end (thus beginning) of, say, metropolis, etc.

"Police" is a clear etymological derivative of "polis".

The more currently popular fix on these terms comes from say, Dashiell Hammet's "private eye", and the sense of response-ability which Raymond Chandler and even Ross MacDonald give to their detective heroes under that term.

The Police, then, are the public eyes; and they are, thus, expected to be Specialists of that ability-to-respond which most of the rest of society has lost all Metro sense-of.

The experience of making this film prompted that clarity of terms; "Polis is eyes" was my constant prayer, to make that experience clear, the last entire day of photographing.

The film mostly assembled rather than edited, is thus the surest track I could make of what it was given to me to see.

It is "framed" by clouds and the ocean for the simplest reasons of "perspective".

Stan Brakhage