



# John Smith

## Experimentation in the Film Medium

By Forest Kinsey

# The London Filmmakers Co-op (est. Oct. 13th, 1966)

Created to exhibit, distribute, promote, and  
produce films

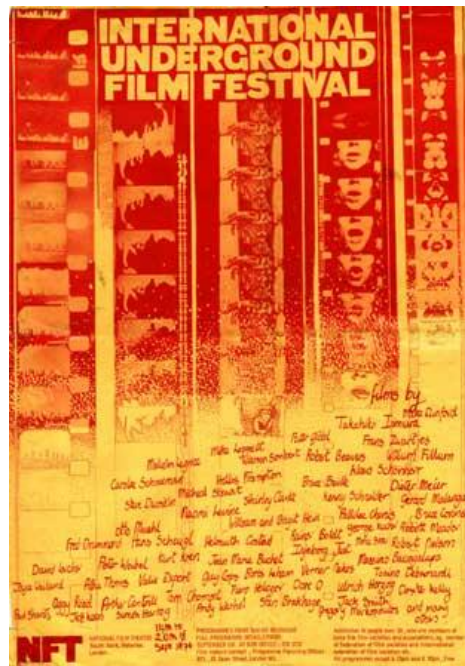
Encouraged innovation of movie making,  
exhibition, and viewing methods

Kino-Eye Manifesto Perspective



Francis, Paul. "First London Film-Makers' Co-Operative Membership Card, 1966." *The Visible Press*, The Visible Press, 13 Oct. 2016, [thevisiblepress.com/event/soft-floor-hard-film/](http://thevisiblepress.com/event/soft-floor-hard-film/).

# Experimental Film in 1970s



International Underground Film Festival

Britain made experimental film organized and interesting

Culture of 1970s accepted and intrigued by experimental film, surrealist media

## John Smith (b. 1952)

Plays with narrative, spoken word, and the expectations associated with the medium

Worked with film and installation media

Films usually have humorous approach



Whitetube de. *John Smith - The Black Tower*. YouTube, 26 Feb. 2012, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W5Wsh-FOMk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W5Wsh-FOMk).

# Experiments in Media: Documentary



Ewwtubes. *The Girl Chewing Gum*. John Smith - *The Girl Chewing Gum* 1976, YouTube, 13 Aug. 2011, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=57hJn-nkKSA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57hJn-nkKSA).

# Experiments in Media: Documentary

*The Girl Chewing Gum, 1976*

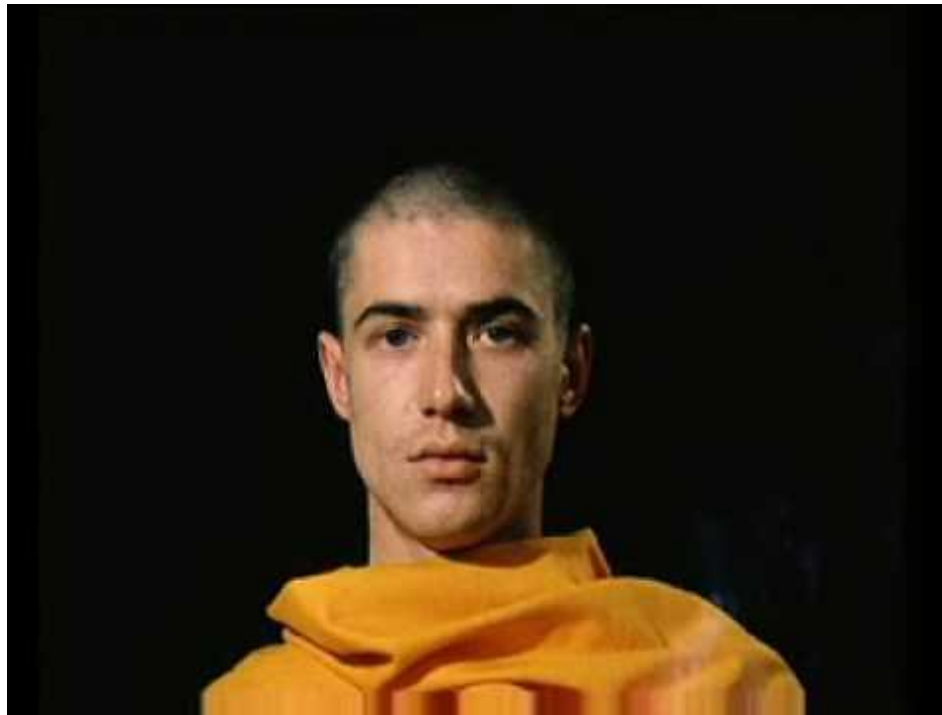
Documentary proved to be fiction

Unexpected approach to documentary



Ingleby Gallery. "Still from 'The Girl Chewing Gum', 1976." Artsy, Artsy, 17 May 2014, [www.artsy.net/article/editorial-reality-and-artifice-in-john-smiths-the](http://www.artsy.net/article/editorial-reality-and-artifice-in-john-smiths-the).

# Experiments in Media: Sound



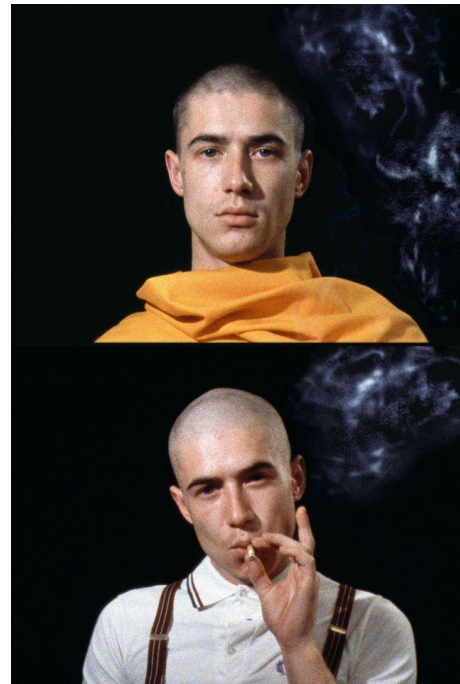
Wtfcm. *Om. Om.* YouTube, 6 Dec. 2008, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Bm2UZn4NDI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Bm2UZn4NDI).

# Experiments in Media: Sound

*Om*, 1986

Joke made possible by sound

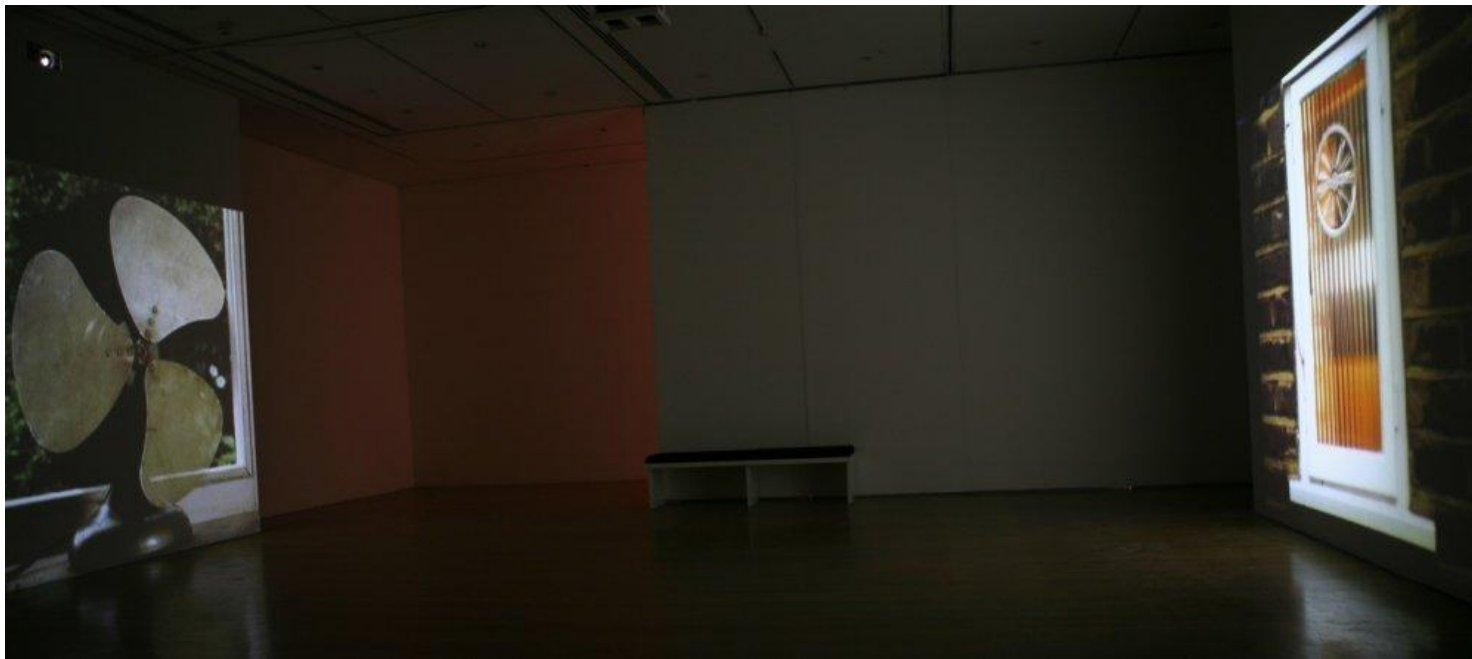
Sound is a second character, more than ambience



Smith, John, and Tanya Leighton. "Stills from John Smith's *Om* (1986)." *The Art Newspaper*, The Art Newspaper, 8 May 2017, [www.theartnewspaper.com/news/cosa-uk-artist-john-smith-uses-translation-app-in-venice-show](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/cosa-uk-artist-john-smith-uses-translation-app-in-venice-show).



## Experiments in Media: Narrative



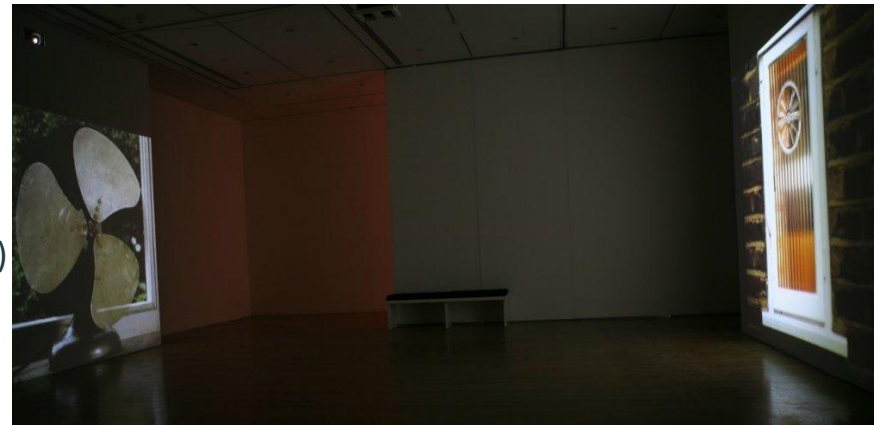
Winsor, Lauren. "Double Shutter (2010)." *BFI*, 29 Sept. 2014, [www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/interviews/john-smith-process-puns](http://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/interviews/john-smith-process-puns).

# Experiments in Media: Narrative

*Double Shutter, 2010*

Installation piece (2 wallscreens facing one another)

Interactions between the inanimate

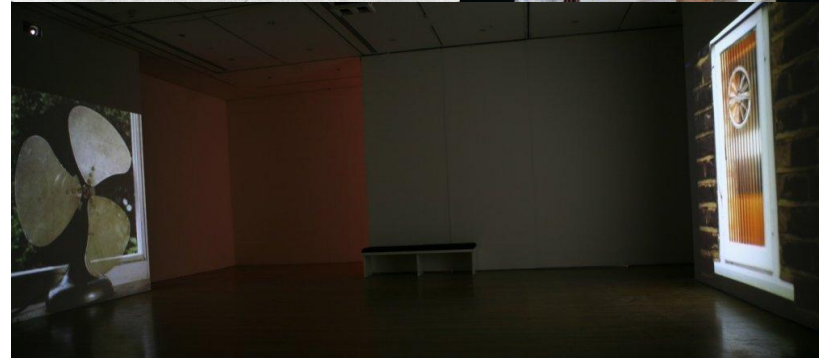
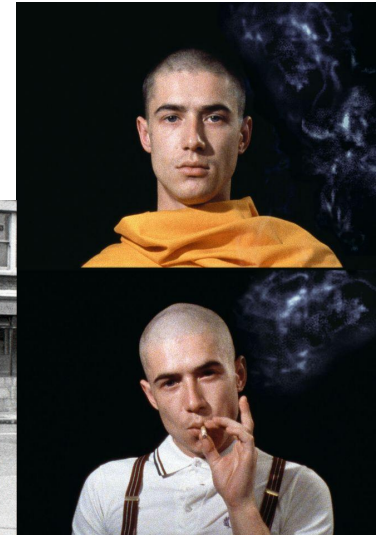


# Experimental Comedy

Subverting expectations

Taking new perspectives

Line between mass enjoyment and true art



## Works Cited

"Biography / Filmography." *John Smith*, John Smith Films, 2018, [johnsmithfilms.com/biography-filmography/](http://johnsmithfilms.com/biography-filmography/).

Bradshaw, Nick. "John Smith: of Process and Puns." *British Film Institute*, 29 Sept. 2014, [www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/interviews/john-smith-process-puns](http://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/interviews/john-smith-process-puns).

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Parker, Ian. *Revolutionary Keywords for a New Left*. John Hunt Publishing, 2017.

Reynolds, Lucy. "FIRST INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL, NATIONAL FILM THEATRE." *Luxonline - Educational Resource about British Film and Video Artists*, 2005, [www.luxonline.org.uk/histories/1970-1979/underground\\_festival.html](http://www.luxonline.org.uk/histories/1970-1979/underground_festival.html).