

Jöel Bartoloméo



Drawing on the films of Roberto Rossellini, Paolo Pasolini and Andy Warhol, and the video work of Bruce Nauman, Jöel Bartoloméo has raised the status of the generic home movie to a work of art. Manet and his contemporaries sought their subject matter in the everyday routine of the French in much the same way as Bartoloméo looks to his contemporaries for inspiration. Using daily life as his theme and justification, he draws on his family for inspiration. The ordinariness and domesticity of its routine and unscripted dramas become compelling viewing in his hands.

What is so fascinating about everyday lives? We only need to recall the commercial success of British and American “real-life” documentaries to see how compelling observing the unselfconscious behaviour of others can be. In Bartoloméo’s video it is his family’s daily routine, the playful behaviour of children on holiday posing for snapshots, as well as the routine of his wife, that become the primary subject. Like Andy Warhol, he positions the camera in a solitary vantage point, to record the daily antics and the subsequent unedited footage only intensifies the drama.

Donald Williams

▲ *Tales from daily life: The talking cow*, 1993 (detail)
Video
5.19 minutes
Courtesy of the artist

► *Tales from daily life: Ascension thursday*, 1992 (detail)
Video
1.35 minutes
Courtesy of the artist