

## TEN SKIES

### *Screening at UKS*

Saturday 27 September (14:00 – 16:00)

Sunday 28 September (19:00 – 21:00)

James Benning (1942-) is among that generation of American Artist Filmmakers who emerged in the 1970's, and like many of his contemporaries, he bears a strong commitment to the medium of film. For instance with all the pressures and temptations at work today, he refuses to convert and distribute his films on video. (Film is film, "and everything else is everything else"). As a result we only see such works during rare and exceptional events" (F.K)

"*Ten Skies* is one of this unique filmmaker's greatest works and one of his most minimalist: ten shots of the sky, each lasting ten minutes. But the experience of watching - and hearing - it is fabulously rich and intense. The skylscapes are filled with life and change at the speed of light. The soundtrack creates an equally rich narrative space by way of ten short stories that are 'insinuated' without ever being 'explained'. A masterpiece." (A.H)

"*Ten Skies* ... looks at light: here, directly at its source - the sun. all ten skies were filmed from my backyard in Southern California: skies formed from weather systems, mountain land currents, wildfires, pollution and the wind; skies as a function of landscape\_ the sound giving clues about the land below. Each sky is a detail selected from the whole; sometimes filled with drama, sometimes a metaphor for peace....

The whole thing is very dramatic, and it's just cloud movement. All the shots end up with a dynamic quality.

I never saw that before. I never had the courage. It took me fifty years to look at the sky like that! I call it 'found paintings'. I think of my landscape works now as anti-war artworks - they're about the antithesis of war, the kind of beauty we're destroying. The *Ten Skies* works came about because I'm thinking about what the opposite of war is." (James Benning)

-This project is a part of Atopia's Celluloid series.

-in collaboration with UKS

-with the sponsorship of NORSK KULTURRÅD (Arts Council Norway)