



A Beginner's Guide to Viewing Video Art: A Breakdown of Five Films at Moving Image Istanbul



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If you've ever walked into a gallery and found a dimly lit space with a few people camped out along the walls watching a screen, you've likely come across video art. A relatively new medium, video art is thought to have begun in 1965 with Nam June Paik's footage of the pope, while others view Andy Warhol's film stills as the medium's origin. Regardless of its beginnings, video art is often richly packed with performances or responses to cultural issues. With subtle details or carefully timed musical scores, works of video art often feature themes that might be easily missed by the casual viewer without an introduction to the medium. In preparation for Moving Image Istanbul, Artsy has created a cheat sheet for five films, so you'll know exactly what's going on when you come across a video of a man balancing on a BMX bike in a 7-Eleven parking lot.

3. Shaun Gladwell, *Study of Stillness*, 2014, at Mark Moore Gallery, duration: 11 min.

About the artist: Australian artist Shaun Gladwell is a former pro-skater-turned-digital artist who incorporates extreme sports into his videos. He is best known for his work *Storm Sequence* (2000), in which he filmed himself skateboarding in slow motion at Bondi Beach while a storm rolled in. Many of his video works incorporate skateboarding and BMX biking, while simultaneously playing with themes of speed, gravity, space, and time.

About the film: *Study of Stillness* shows Gladwell balancing on a mountain bike in several suburban locations. The film depicts a difficult and tense balance, leaving the viewer to wonder whether he'll touch down with his feet or be able to maintain his careful stance upon the bike.

Look out for: At several points Gladwell is able to maintain perfect stillness—the ultimate goal—but soon loses balance and adjusts his position. Watch out for the end of the film when he sits back on the bike and smoothly rides off out of view. Notice how balance is easier achieved when the bike is in motion, rather than when trying to keep it still.

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Shaun Gladwell
Study of Stillness and Balance, 2014
Mark Moore Gallery