MÉNAGERIE

DIRECTOR
Cécile Babiole

DURATION
6:15

YEAR
1988

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
No dialogue

CATEGORY
Video Art



DESCRIPTION
This cycle, partly inspired by the books of hours (richly illuminated medieval manuscripts with prayers for the 12 months of the year, illustrations of the seven deadly sins and so forth), presents a series of nine tragicomic visions of the human body. Each of the nine different video scenes is set in a cage, a microcosm inhabited by various human and animal characters, and presents a different aspect of a deranged universe in which the body reigns supreme. Familiar categories are abolished, proportions inverted, the workings of the body go haywire to the point of becoming mere mechanical gesticulations. The cages are thematically arranged, each depicting a physical state or function (immobility, mobility, the different senses etc.) in an ironic, agonizing or oneiric mode. Taken as a whole, the nine scenes form a sort of wacky Noah's ark, whose aesthetics give it the disturbing and yet familiar strangeness of the uncanny.

IMAGE FORMAT
4:3

SHOOTING FORMAT
Betacam

KEYWORDS
Confinement, Body, Performance

THEMES
Art and culture