THE BRIDGE



DIRECTOR
Karl Lemieux

DURATION
3:30

YEAR
1998

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
English

CATEGORY
Experimental

DESCRIPTION
Very first film shot by the director at the age of 17 while studying at Galena High in the United States, inspired by Lee Ranaldo's *The Bridge*.

SHOOTING FORMAT
S-VHS

FURTHER INFORMATION

"I was still in high school at the time. Sonic Youth was an important influence when I was younger. I was listening to their music a lot, and at some point I got interested in their more experimental projects, like Lee Ranaldo's solo material. I got the chance to shoot my first short film in Nevada, while I was in school there. They had a VHS camera that we could use to make a short video piece. When I started to write and work on it, it was inspired by one of Ranaldo's songs. It was a spoken word piece called "The Bridge." It's funny, because when I arrived down there I couldn't speak English very well. I had trouble understanding what all the words meant. I was writing everything down to figure out what the piece meant. I could understand most of it: that it was about him and his father going in this old Chevy pick-up truck, delivering some furniture to his brother, or something like that. I found one of these old trucks–it was a GMC, not a Chevy, though. But I found this truck, and I was in the desert. The picture on the cover of the album was a photo by Ranaldo's partner, Leah Singer. It was a black-and-white photo of an old truck in the Nevada desert, where I was basically. All these things came together at once.
It wasn't until a couple of years after I had finished the film that I finally understood why it was called "The Bridge." What he's actually talking about in the song is crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. [Laughs.] I completely missed that part in my interpretation of the piece. The nice thing about it, though, is that my teacher insisted I send Ranaldo a copy. I was a bit shy doing this, so we wrote the letter together and we sent it to him. I didn't expect him to write back, but he actually did. He wrote me a letter, saying that he liked the film. I was extremely pleased by his response: it was by first piece, so it meant a lot to me." - Karl Lemieux, *INCITE Journal of Experimental Media*
See also:
Kashmere, Brett. "Against the Current: A Two-Part Interview with Karl Lemieux (and Daïchi Saïto)", *INCITE! Journal of Experimental Media Manifest*

KEYWORDS
Landscape, roads, vehicles, United States, roadtrip

THEMES
Private life