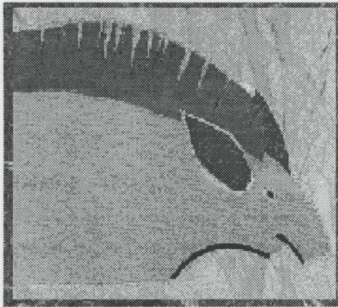


idea for images:

1. Superposition:

The myth "The Tapir" and the superposition of layers



"There was in philosophy from the time of the Greeks to the eighteenth and even the nineteenth century a tremendous discussion about the origin of mathematical ideas -the idea of the line, the idea of the circle, the idea of the triangle. There were, in the main, two classical theories: one of the mind as a tabula rasa, with nothing in it in the beginning; everything comes to it from experience. It is from seeing a lot of round objects, none of which were perfectly round, that we are able nevertheless to abstract the idea of the circle. The second classical theory goes back to Plato, who claimed that such ideas of the circle, of the triangle, of the line, are perfect, innate in the mind, and it is because they are given to the mind that we are able to project them, so to speak, on reality, although reality never offers us a perfect circle or a perfect triangle." (Myth and Meaning, p. 7)

The story of "The Tapir" has an unusual narrative: it presents the conflict, develops it into an action-climax situation and surprises the audience with an incredible end. At least for the western 'civilized'

ears, the story misses an ending statement. The natural solution for the conflict of the betrayed husband who kills the tapir would be the punishment of his wife, and her following regret. Then life would go back to its 'normal' order. The obvious statement would be: adultery is wrong. But in the Indian's myth the women, after the murder of their lover, decide to run away, leaving tribe and husbands behind.

Besides the line of the narrative, which musically suggests a traditional harmonic construction ending in suspension instead of repose, there is a obvious emptying movement in this myth. The myth starts with many simultaneous events occurring in different places; the husband is suspicious while the women are meeting the tapir; the women are sleeping when the man leaves to kill the tapir. The idea of simultaneity appears as well in the emotional states of the characters. After the climax of the story, where the man kills the tapir, everything seems to fall apart. The women just go away, there is not a clear moral statement, the husband and all of the tribe have to live from now on without women. Empty.

I chose the simultaneity as the main idea to structure the visual construction for "The Tapir". Thus I have layers of events that happen in the same place, but are presented in sequential order. The simultaneity of events is also introduced in the abstract level, where each character is constructed of a set of polygons layered together. The main idea for the sound is also the simultaneity of musical events, with each polygon representing one of those events. The relationship of sound and illustration reconstruct the relationship between music and score, in the sense that one can be translated by the other.

Later in the creative process all these ideas were cleaned, so the structural matter would not overwhelm the importance of the

storytelling: sound events were cleaned out, visual elements were taken off, providing the animation with only the essential elements for the construction of the narrative. The whole story was divided in nine scenes, each one corresponding to a different layer within the same space. The camera goes from the front layer to the last, passing by all the different events. The simultaneity of the events is depicted in the nine layers superposed horizontally, thus from the point of view of the first layer one can see part of all other layers. Going from the first layer to the last one is then the same thing as taking out layer by layer, or going from a full superposition to less and less events superposed, and finally to just one single event. The whole set is setup under a semi-circle, which is at same time the sky and the "oca", a typical Indian's house. Both of the Indian's homes, which are the open space of the forest and the "oca" are represented in the visual construction as the stage where the myth takes place.