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THE TWIN SHORES OF AGNÈS VARDA

During her career Agnès Varda has often questioned cinema as a medium. And so the language as such of her films and the tricks she uses are sometimes made explicit. On many occasions the little short circuits between reality and fiction that appear here and there in her different works stem from the introduction of biographical material and from a refined sense of humour, and also from understanding cinema as a concatenation of images, something that Raymond Bellour argues is due to her never having stopped being a photographer.

The two shores of Agnès Varda might well be *cinéma-verité* and the *nouvelle vague*. The 1960s, at any rate, with their focus on the opposition between the staged and the non-staged, if we harken the writings of William Rothman. From photography to film and, later on, from film to visual installations: so ranges a life's work that extends from one shore to another.

The conventions of the film theatre and the exhibition gallery are also the twin shores of Agnès Varda. On both the artist has left her spoor, her footprints as a record of having wandered those beaches. That's also why her exhibition at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo has them as inclusive reference points: visual installations, but also films; recent pieces first of all, but also works from the 1960s and 70s.

Chrissie Iles has reflected on how in those same years there's a shift in the production of art from the fixed to the moving image, along with a questioning of the film theatre as a rigid space in which the viewer has but a single position. In other words a radical change occurs in the latter's gaze, which can no longer be uniquely frontal, as in the Italian-style theatre, but requires the surrounding space, the mobility of different points of view. And this is something Agnès Varda takes up when in the first decade of the century she embarks on what could be called her museum output based on artistic devices from the past that, with a fresh vision and the inclusion of the moving image, are renewed.

Text about exhibition *The Twin Shores of Agnès Varda* [Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, October 30 2012 – March 31 2013]