

Artur Zmijewski "An Eye for an Eye"

Summary of Sound Transcript by Alicja Kielczewska

The video begins in complete silence until the one-legged man reaches the top of the staircase. From there-on-out rhythmic and methodical slapping thuds are heard for each footstep that the man either takes on his own or jointly with the leg of the two-legged man, acting as a borrowed limb. Scenes of grey silence punctuate the video at its transitional points, such as when the men walk slowly down a diagonal path across the room before returning to the staircase. Upon entering the staircase, a loud and startling slap breaks the silence, taking the viewer by surprise. One of the men whistles/hums a jazzy tune until the men reach the bottom of the staircase, from where the light drizzle of water is heard. As the scene changes to that of an amputee being washed by a woman in a shower, the drizzle frequently changes in pitch and dynamics, depending on the camera angle. As the camera closely zooms in, the water ascends to a piercing pitch and as the camera zooms out, it gets as low as a snare drum. When the man's body is washed, light "swishes" are heard. The scene ends with another grey period of silence as the camera zooms in to the man's face slowly being rubbed. The silence is again broken by a startling stomp as the men retreat back up the stairs, their steps continuing to sound like rhythmic, slapping thuds. When they reach the break in the staircase, one of the men releases an exasperated breath. As the scene repeatedly changes from the men walking down a room, to them walking down a tree-lined forest, the men alternate their breathing. They breathe sharp "hooohhs" in the room and softer "hehhs" in the forest. The scene suddenly cuts to the men lying down on a hard-wood floor, playfully pedaling their legs as if riding a bicycle and whistling a jolly melody. One of the men whistles slightly off key, creating some dissonance. The melody is often broken by giggling and out-of-synch rhythm. As the camera takes its focus off of the men, the whistling continues, growing more out of tune, and then ceases.