

Let's Create Reality

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A few years ago, a French intellectual published a book whose principal claim was that a documentary film must be poor if it seeks to approach the truth. Poor in its means of filming, thrifty in its aestheticism! Since I know and esteem this intellectual, I refrained from responding to him. His book has created no controversy, insofar as these theoretical claims were already installed in people's minds, especially those who are responsible for television channels.

For my part, I think documentary film needs all existing technical means, and all the means which have yet to be invented, even if we do not use all of them. Documentary requires a considerable

amount of time, an inexplicable time to develop its projects, to confront reality, to apprehend and film it, even and especially if we must be the fastest in all of these aspects.

The last documentary that I shot in Japan involved a lengthy immersion of several years inside a gray zone of society. Reality has so many levels, that a single film will never give an account of its totality. In fact, it would be good if everyone understood that a documentary is always a trailer for the upcoming film series, a trailer for films in the making.

(Translated by Mark D. Roberts)