

## **Robert Cahen**

Video-artist, author from musical education, Robert Cahen comes from the frontier of arts. He was born in France in 1945, grown up in Alsace, moved to Paris where he graduated at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in 1971 (at the Pierre Schaeffer's class) and where he lived for many years. He could transfer the technical and linguistic experimentations of the school of concrete music towards the video: researcher at the French public TV (ORTF), he has been a pioneer in the use of the electronic instrumentations, from the first years of the seventies. He handles the images in the same way of the sounds, he organizes, transform them, giving an example of the opportunity of the interchange among the models, the parameters of the image and of the music.

One of the chief protagonist in the field of video, he has made more than 70 works since 1973 to nowadays: films, photographic film, video, video installations. The elaboration of a poetic universe between sounds and images and the treatment of the time of the image (through the slowdown effect) are the most recognizable and original features. In his works we find the fundamental themes of the relationship between the static image and the images in motion, thought as a consideration about life and death; and a particular view on the landscape, transfigured, carved, painted, engraved by sounds. His video *Juste le temps* (1983), is considered a masterpiece of the international video-art and a key work in the history of video and of its relationship with the narration.

A significant part of his work consists in videos and movies on the work of other artists through works about dance, painting, sculpture, theatre, music, photography, literature and poetry. But Cahen made also several portraits of country and cities, deeply renewing the documentary genre and finding new paths for poetic and open styles of narration. He can dialogue with commissions and institutions without renouncing a personal and scrupulous research ; in his work an avant-garde experimentation and a skill of « speaking » to a wide public become entwined.

He availed himself of a group of close assistants for his research, among whom Michael Chion (musician, video-cinematographic author, film scholar and critic); for many years he has collaborated with the author-editor Ermeline Le Mezo and in the last period he availed himself of the sound conception of Francisco Ruiz De Infante.

His works, in addition to be presented at several festivals and art events, have been broadcasted by TV networks in France and abroad; they have reached many international awards and prizes and in 1992 he has received the «Lauréat de la Villa Médicis Hors les Murs »

From the nineties he has dedicated himself to the realization of video-installations, with works shown in France, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, UK, USA, Canada, Peru, Chile, Morocco, China, Vietnam, Argentina, in Azerbaijan, Yemen, Uzbekistan, Japan.

Several tributes and retrospectives has been dedicated to him all over the world ; he has been a member of international juries and in the last years he has been called to organize work-shops and creative activities. Many of his works, both videos and video-installations, have been acquired by museums, archives and collections. He's an artist of the Galleria Lucien Schweitzer, Luxembourg.

He lives in Mulhouse, Alsace.