

Anthropology 536/AIS 475:  
The Non-verbal Film

## History of the Non-verbal Film

One might say that all film began as non-verbal film because all the early films were silent, but they nearly all interspersed text to convey narrative messages.

The first major effort that I am aware of in non-verbal films for the contemporary theater is *Koyaanisqatsi*. This film started production in the late 1970s and was first screened in commercial theaters in 1983. It is the first of a trilogy of non-verbal films using titles from the Hopi language.

# Preview of Koyaanisqatsi

# Preview of Powaqqatsi

# Preview of and Commentary on Naqoyqatsi

Koyaanisqatsi:  
Commentary on the Nature of the Film

### Koyaanisqatsi:

1. Nature and Content 6.7m ⊗
2. Cinematography 3.5m
3. Music 8.5m
4. Meaning and Source of Title 2.7m

### Powaqqatsi:

1. Nature and Content 3.2m\*
2. Integrating the Music and the Images 6.1m
3. Techniques of Creating and Producing the Film 2.3m
4. Tech on Tech: Using High Tech to Criticize Technology, Part I 2m\*

### Naqoyqatsi:

1. Evolution of the Concept of the Trilogy and the Uniqueness of Naqoyqatsi 3m\*
2. Music and the Trilogy 6.6m
3. Phillip Glass, Composer, and Yo-Yo Ma, Cello Soloist, in Collaboration 7m
4. Foundation Images as Locations 2.8m
5. Visual Design 11.7m
6. Visual Technology 5m
7. Tech on Tech: Using High Tech to Criticize Technology, Part II 4.5m\*

### General:

1. Spiritual Foundation or Expression of the Films 7.5m
2. Further Elaboration on the Concept and Evolution of the Trilogy 9m
3. Beyond the Trilogy: What is next? 3.2m
4. Further Elaboration on the Use and Meaning of the Hopi Titles 6.7m\*

# Koyaanisqatsi: Cinematography

# Koyaanisqatsi: Music

# Koyaanisqatsi: Meaning and Source of Title

# The Concept Behind Powaqqatsi

# Powaqqatsi: Integrating the Music and the Images

# Powaqqatsi: Techniques of Creation and Production

# Using High Tech to Critique Technology: Part I

# Introduction to Naqoyqatsi and the Concept of the Trilogy

# The Music of Naqoyqatsi and the Trilogy

Naqoyqatsi Music: Phillip Glass, Composer,  
and Yo-Yo Ma, Cello Soloist, in Collaboration

# Naqoyqatsi: Foundation Images as Locations

# The Making of Naqoyqatsi: Visual Design

# The Making of Naqoyqatsi: Visual Technology

# Using High Tech to Critique Technology: Part II

# The Spiritual Foundation of the -Qatsi Trilogy

# The Concept and Content of the Trilogy, Part II

Beyond the Trilogy: What is next?

# The Use and Meaning of the Hopi Titles

Nearing the End of the Fourth World as per Hopi Accounts

# Koyaanisqatsi: Part I

# Koyaanisqatsi: Urban Decay

# Koyaanisqatsi: Conclusion