

Statement of Purpose
by Su Friedrich

I always start making a film when I stumble upon something that's very scary for me to think about. For example: my thirty seven year relationship to my father...or the desire to have sex with my fifth grade teacher (who happens to be a nun)...or the part of me that's German because of the all of my mother that's German... or the urge to propose marriage to my lover.

I work with what and who I know because (I hope) that forces me to be more honest. Being specific to a person, a place, an event is a great challenge; it's tempting to spin off into theories or generalizations, but what little I've managed to observe of human nature leads me to think most of us don't fit into whatever categories have been created. People keep on being particular, weird, unconscious, unpredictable and unfathomable despite my wish that they would sometimes exhibit a little more sanity (whatever THAT is). So at this point I feel like I'm just looking out and around in wonder and disbelief and I'm trying to record what I see.

Of course the fun part is taking so many disparate bits of sound and image and forcing them into a sometimes uneasy alliance. Each element becomes something other than what it is when it's alone, and sometimes the joining of elements produces an effect, a meaning, a movement or an emotion that I didn't anticipate. I think that's when the most subtle, humorous, unsettling and sexy things occur.

On a pragmatic level, my work is about and for the many of us who are trying to get some pleasure from, and some power in, a world that has been for too long in the hands of those who depend on our fear of them. I believe that being an artist and being an engaged person in the world are not mutually exclusive. How those experiences intersect, and what sort of films they engender, is an ongoing, endless source of interest to me.