

In the Site of the Unseen: The Place of African-American Culture within Film

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The paper critically reflects upon my development of *Claiming Open Spaces*, *The March*, and *Olmsted in the Site of the Unseen*. It further examines the creation, distortion, re-mapping, dislocation, mythologies and loss of space in the construction of African American culture in cinema and the televisual experience. The paper examines the creation of place in films like *Romeo Must Die* and *Down in the Delta*, both Canadian landscapes representing Black Oakland, California and rural Mississippi. I also critically examine South-Central Los Angeles through the eyes of such filmmakers and Charles Burnett, the Hughes Brothers, F. Gary Grey and John Singleton. Finally I end with an examination of the dislocation of Cleveland African American life within the American cinematic discourse. I will show a number of video clips to emphasize my specific issues.