

*»In recording reality with a video camera, something unique and strange happens: time is dissected. Whereas in our immediate experience we perceive time as a changing continuum, this continuum does not exist in video recordings. A single second is dissolved into fifty stages of frozen motion. This specific quality of video recording opens up possibilities that go beyond merely capturing reality, and using relatively simple means, we can create new worlds that can only exist in video«.*  
[Jan Verbeek]

*For Verbeek, the medium of video can be divided into motion-motionlessness, flow of time/standstill, and motif or its abstraction. He uses the camera to capture images that correspond to this focus. In the process, simple tracking shots, observations from a single point of view, or collage-type fragments of images join to form a whole. Verbeek reflects the medium as a series of standstills, the individual image, which begins to flow and become movement only when seen by the viewer. In *Local Ride*, the images of a swift journey along a dirt road dissolve into an abstract, flickering sea of flowers. Although at first the flow of time and movement accelerates to a reckless speed, this interplay culminates in a poetic yet simultaneously abstract observation of nature in which it seems as if there is all the time in the world. The image ultimately comes to a standstill.*

*Verbeek goes the opposite way in his work *On Wednesday Night in Tokyo*. The camera is in a fixed position, observing the*

*movement that takes place in front of its lens. Time and motion flow in a continuum, yet here, too, things are intensified, causing one to anticipate the final end of the process, even though it comes unexpectedly late. Passengers get on the Tokyo subway, which already seems far too full; even so, riders continue to force their way onto the train. Since this clearly occurs on a daily basis, without any of the passengers exchanging looks or words, the film also turns out to be a sociological study of the way people coexist in Japan.*