

De La – its origins

Michael Snow – Clip 13

I'd been working with camera movement and I decided that I was going to try to make a landscape film...which as far as I know had never been done and I wanted to be able to move the camera completely in a spherical space so it could see everywhere and in the other films I'd learned a little bit about what happens at different speeds of panning and I wanted to apply this in a definitely global sense so I looked into the machinery that's available to make films, some of which is quite astounding, all kinds of cranes and so on but interestingly there was nothing in existence that wouldn't at some point if you turned the camera, photograph what was holding it up. And I also learned just in thinking over the history of film that ...there had been practically no vertical pans that were complete circles. It's just pretty much nonexistent. Anyway in order to try to do this thing I had to invent a machine that would move the camera and so I'm not a technician but I knew what I wanted and I looked for someone who might be able to solve how it could be done, mechanically or technically, and I found a man named Pierre Abeloos who at this time was working at the National Film Board in Montreal and he suggested a way of doing it which was this pivoting arms and such that when the camera moved around it never photographed what was holding it up and so he built that and I

used it with him....to film the film *La région centrale* which was filmed in Quebec about 100 km northwest of Sept Isles on the St. Lawrence.