

ISSN 0972-0073

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

International Journal of Contemporary and Applied Studies of Man

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PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6802

Anthropologist, 1(1): 19-24 (1999)

DOI: 10.31901/24566802.1999/01.01.02

Toward a Theory of Visual Anthropology

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KEYWORDS Ethnography. Visual Reality. Culture. Art Aesthetic. Film

ABSTRACT The present paper discusses the scope of visual representation in anthropology. It has been observed that the use of film and video has increased in the recent years as compared to the past, which is likely to overthrow the classic technique of participant observation. To bring itself to this position, anthropology has to move away from mechanistic documentary to a radiant domain of creative art rich with sparks of meta-physical insights. For a visual anthropologist the realization of man's performance in the great drama of nature would be immensely liberating. If these facts are realized the facts of human life and culture would become far simpler to model.