The Last Angel of History
Directed by John Akomfrah
UK 1996, 45 minutes, video
Distributed by Icarus Films

A cinematic essay positing science fiction (with tropes such as alien abduction, estrangement, and genetic engineering) as a metaphor for the Pan-African experience of forced displacement, cultural alienation and otherness.

Apeshit
Directed by Leah Gilliam
U.S. 1999, 6.5 minutes, video
Distributed by Video Data Bank

Employing footage from an obscure 8mm film trailer for Battle for the Planet of the Apes to highlight the unstable relationship between the real, historical past and the distant, imaginary future, Apeshit asks: Is alien-ness the metaphor for the 20th Century? Is there a relationship between forgotten formats and the discontinued political ideologies they depict?

The Changing Same
Directed by Cauleen Smith
U.S. 2001, 9.5 minutes, 35mm and Super8 to video
Distributed by the Artist

The mothership sends an alien to earth to study the incubators (humans). She is told she is the only one. Her training prepares her for nothing. She discovers that she is not alone after all.

Kempinski
Directed by Neil Beloufa
France 2007, 14 minutes, video
Distributed by the Artist

Standing in the neon lights of the periphery of Mali’s capital Bamako, people emerge from the dark to imagine a mystical and animist future.

Hydra Decapita
Directed by the Otolith Group
UK 2010, 32 minutes, video
Distributed by LUX

The first in a trilogy of film essays, Hydra Decapita uses the imaginary world in the concept albums of Detroit-based techno duo Drexciya to comment on globalization, capitalism and climate change.

Videos guest-curated by Rebecca Meyers, Bucknell Academic Film Programmer