

## Lewis Klahr's *Prolix Satori*

Friday, December 2 at 7:30 pm — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
Lewis Klahr In Person

***Prolix Satori*** (2009–11) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 60 minutes, from the maker

“I have often worked in series before—*Picture Books For Adults*, *Tales of the Forgotten Future*, *Engram Sepals*, *The Two Minutes to Zero Trilogy*—but never quite like this. The main difference is that *Prolix Satori* is both open ended and ongoing with a variety of thematic focuses instead of a single, centralized one. As the series title suggests, it includes films that are very very short (*Mercury*, 2001, is one minute long) and films that are feature length (*The Pettifogger*, 2011, is sixty-five minutes). *Prolix Satori* will also contain various sub-series: this program offers several films from *The Couplets* (*Wednesday Morning Two A.M.*, *Sugar Slim Says* and all three *Nimbus* films). *The Couplets* will generally, but not exclusively, organize themselves around the pairing of various pop songs and just as in the songs lyrics, the theme of romantic love.” (Lewis Klahr)

### ***The Couplets:***

#### ***The Nimbus Trilogy:***

***Nimbus Smile*** (July 2009) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 9 minutes

***Nimbus Seeds*** (July 2009) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 9 minutes

***Cumulonimbus*** (January 2010) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 10 minutes

“Three romantic entanglements play out in the three *Nimbus* videos, which extend Klahr’s interest in constructing almost legible narratives—but doing so in formalist terms that complicate and enhance the traditional pleasures of stories. The trilogy’s closer, *Cumulonimbus*, is a movingly mature account of grief with a puckish sting in its tail.” (Chris Stults, *Film Comment*)

***Sugar Slim Says*** (January 2010) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 7 minutes

Music: “Lump” and “Like A Nurse” by Marc Anthony Thompson, performed by Chocolate Genius Incorporated from the album *Swansongs*.

“Same address, different buildings. ‘Put the rope in the can.’ Mark Anthony Thompson (aka Chocolate Genius Incorporated) and I became friends because our sons were classmates. He played me his new album and I showed him some of my recent films and we got excited about collaborating. This is the result.” (Lewis Klahr)

***Wednesday Morning Two A.M.*** (July 2009) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 7 minutes

“Deep Night—what the mind refuses to grasp the body understands.” (Lewis Klahr)

“*Wednesday Morning Two A.M.* has been enthusiastically received, perhaps not only because it’s among [Klahr’s] most visually ravishing works but also because it’s one of the most hopeful.” (Chris Stults, *Film Comment*)

***Lethe*** (August 2009) by Lewis Klahr; digital video, color, sound, 23 minutes

“In Greek mythology Lethe is the underworld river from which the dead drink to forget their life on earth. The first film in a possible trilogy of mythologically inspired pieces with female protagonists.” (Lewis Klahr)

“A straightforward narrative film by Klahr’s standards, *Lethe* is a pulpy melodrama that incorporates sci-fi B-movie elements into a story straight out of a Vincente Minnelli women’s picture. It also functions as one of Klahr’s most sophisticated enactments of the intertwining of Thanatos and Eros, as if the inanimate materials that he is bringing back to life wish to return to their natural state of dead calm.” (Chris Stults, Assistant Curator of Film/Video, The Wexner Center for the Arts)