

Yoshua Okón

 **Rinoplastia**

05 Video, colour, Spanish spoken, English subtitled,
30', Mexico, 2001

One of the most troubling films in this selection, and probably ever, *Rinoplastia* chronicles a day in the life of two twenty-something sons of the infamous 'nouveau riche' Mexican ruling class. Shot almost entirely from within a car in the Dogme fiction/documentary tradition, Okón's film follows these vacuous figures as they practice their daily routine of senseless acts of brutality while pumping inordinate amounts of white powder up their greedy nostrils (the title of the film refers to the surgical procedure used to rebuild nasal passages of cocaine addicts). Other than the two actors and their immediate friends (who are apparently playing themselves), the 'characters' appearing in the film, from servants to peons to waiters at a restaurant, are all real life working class people who ended up caught, usually at great peril, in outrageously abusive situations of mindless cruelty beyond their control. Okón is the founder of La Panadería, an alternative gallery space that ran for ten years in Mexico City before it closed its doors in December 2002. As with other works by this young but already close to legendary artist and filmmaker, *Rinoplastia* is a passionately detached, close to the edge critique of the excesses of power in post-NAFTA Mexican society, a society Okón clearly both loves and loves to hate.