

GIANFRANCO BARUCHELLO

## VERIFICA INCERTA



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CATEGORIES: [Books, DVDs by BDV](#)

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## AVANT-GARDE MEETS CINECITTÀ

The history of the fertile but ambiguous relationship between visual arts and cinema during the 20th century is punctuated by a number of landmarks: "Verifica Incerta" released in 1964 by Italian artists Gianfranco Baruchello and Alberto Griffi is one such, even if it has been overlooked for several decades. Inspired by Marcel Duchamp and supported by John Cage—the film was premiered in Paris at La Cinémathèque française and in New York at The Museum of Modern Art—"Verifica Incerta" is the perfect offspring from the encounter between Cinecittà and avant-garde expression; it is also one of the very first examples of a film using found footage. An assemblage of extracts taken from 450,000 feet of footage from the 1950s purchased by the artists before their destruction, it is a schizophrenic yet ironic kaleidoscope about mass cinema and B-movies. Without any script or plot, it is an encyclopedia of leftovers, a deconstructed attempt to rediscover Hollywood, a linguistic experiment in film and montage. As art and cinema critic Carla Subrizi writes: "'Verifica Incerta' questions time and movement through images, creating a system that is not internal to the single shots but rather external: it is the process of selecting, editing, discarding, recomposing that creates a new conception of time. Rhythm, duration, stopping and starting, distance: the images are used as ready-mades and placed in a different order through montage; they abandon their original meaning and gain a different and uncanny one."

The DVD comprises the 35-minute-long film "Verifica Incerta" and a recent filmed interview with Gianfranco Baruchello. It is accompanied by a booklet that contains texts by Gianfranco Baruchello and Carla Subrizi, as well as numerous documents (photographs, archive, press clippings) about the film, its production, context, and reception in and since 1964.

Born in 1924, Gianfranco Baruchello lives and works in Rome, where he created the *Agricola Cornelia* in 1973. His practice as an artist, poet, and experimental filmmaker is now being rediscovered thanks to a series of exhibitions, and participation in Biennials and group exhibitions, as well as publications.

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DVD Multizone, PAL/SECAM, 67 minutes.