

How are ethics relevant to a discussion of creative/ documentary practice?

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Duration of video clip: 2 minutes and 5 seconds

I'd like to use another term rather than "relevant or not". I'd like to think of it as innate and essential and unavoidable, intrinsic, and go even further than that, and say that it is an ethical practice in itself, rather than being like a limb which you attach to an organic body. It is an ethical form or manifestation of our existence, it is ethical in its essence, so instead of separating and asking the question - is it relevant, it is, per se. Let's start from here. This is the position from which I feel is safe and correct because if we are decision-making creatures. All right, if that is a feasible axiom, and if we're never alone, if you agree to accept these two axioms and metaphysical presuppositions, you immediately arrive at the necessary assumption that whatever we do, I mean not to mention film and filmmaking and documentary filmmaking is an ethical expression of the basic form of our existence, therefore it is. So from here I can start a conversation. Saying that, this *Justine* is a very intensive and trustworthy locus of conversation, because it raises so many questions. It is clear that one could really go against it, or go for it, but I think that's not the theme. The theme is, how can we look at it and use this film in order to enrich our conversation and understanding. What does it mean to be a filmmaker observing and participating in people's life with the camera, and *Justine* is a classical case study.