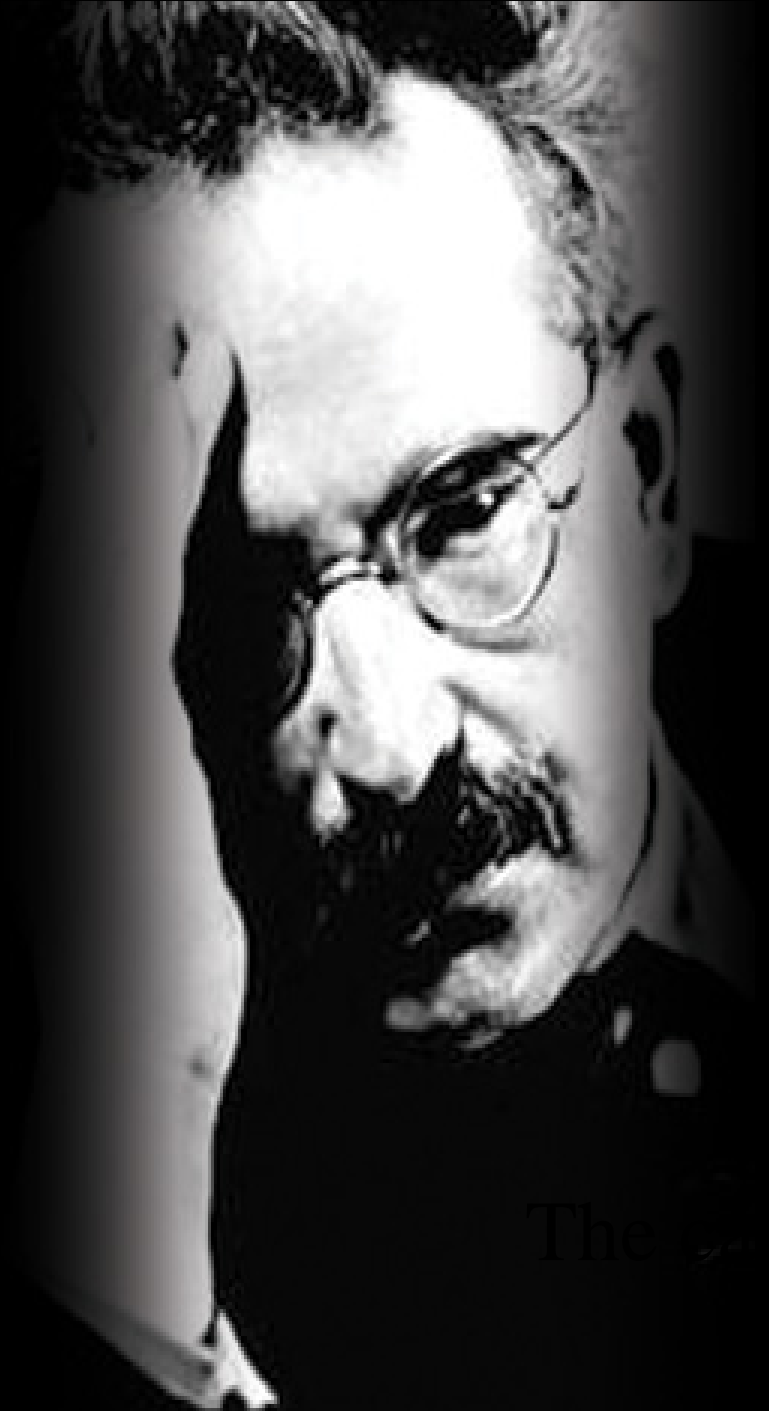




Walter Benjamin

The Camera Roll



The Camera Roll



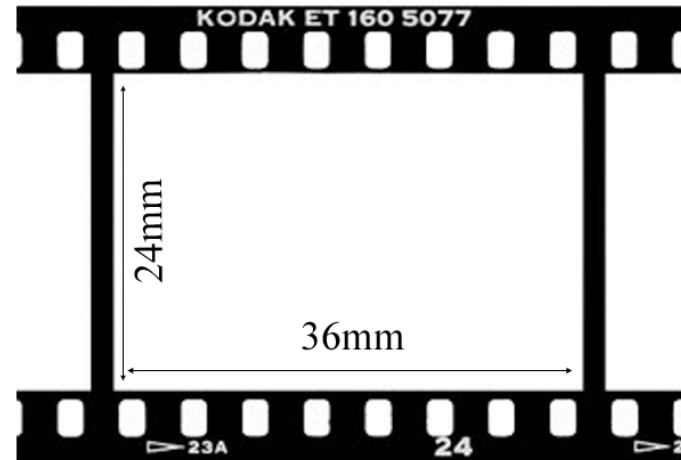
“Close ups, pans, special effects, etc all subject the film actor’s performance to a series of optical tests.”



The film actor does not get an opportunity to feel out his audience and adjust his performance based on their reaction like a stage actor can. This is unique to the film actor.

The audience's identification with the film actor is really an identification with the camera itself.





“What matters is that the actor represents himself to the public in front of the camera.”

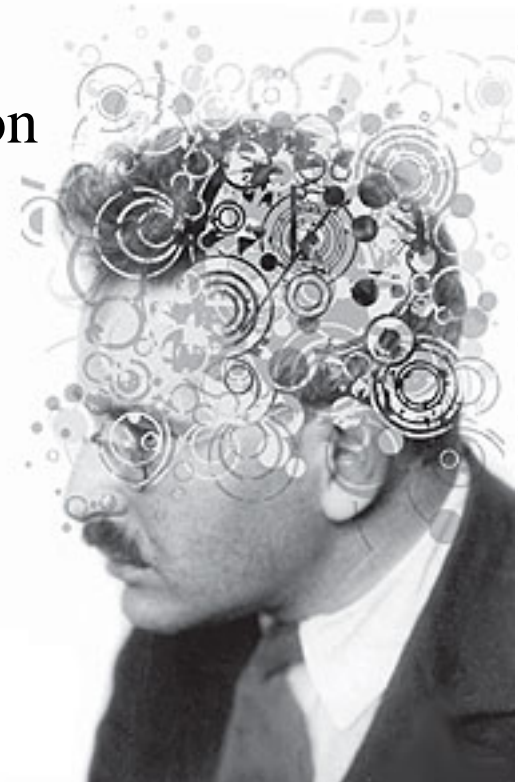
“What matters is that the part is acted not for an audience, but a mechanical device.”

Because of film, a person now has to act with their whole self, but without their aura being present.

Aura is tied to a person

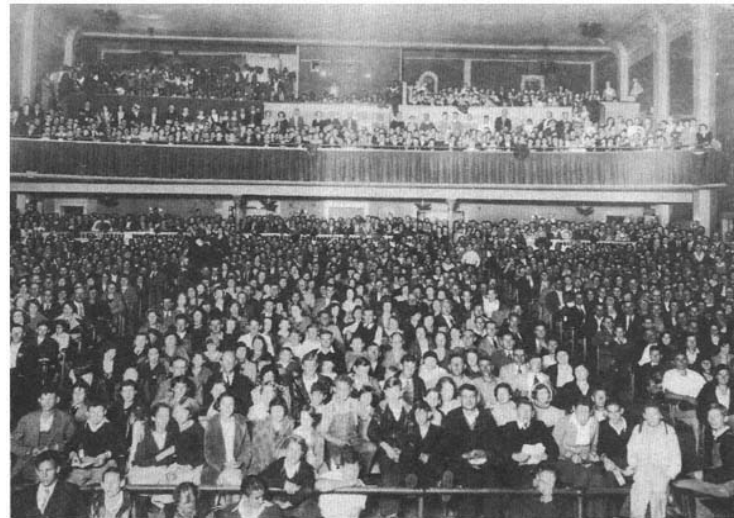
It can not be replicated

or replaced



The stage actor identifies himself with his character role.

The film actor is denied this opportunity as most of his works are completed in many separate “takes” that can are often are performed several times before completed



This is the technique of editing

FILM
is
ART

But..

This art lacks aura
and is
Reproducible



Walter Benjamin gave an analogy of the medicine man vs. the surgeon



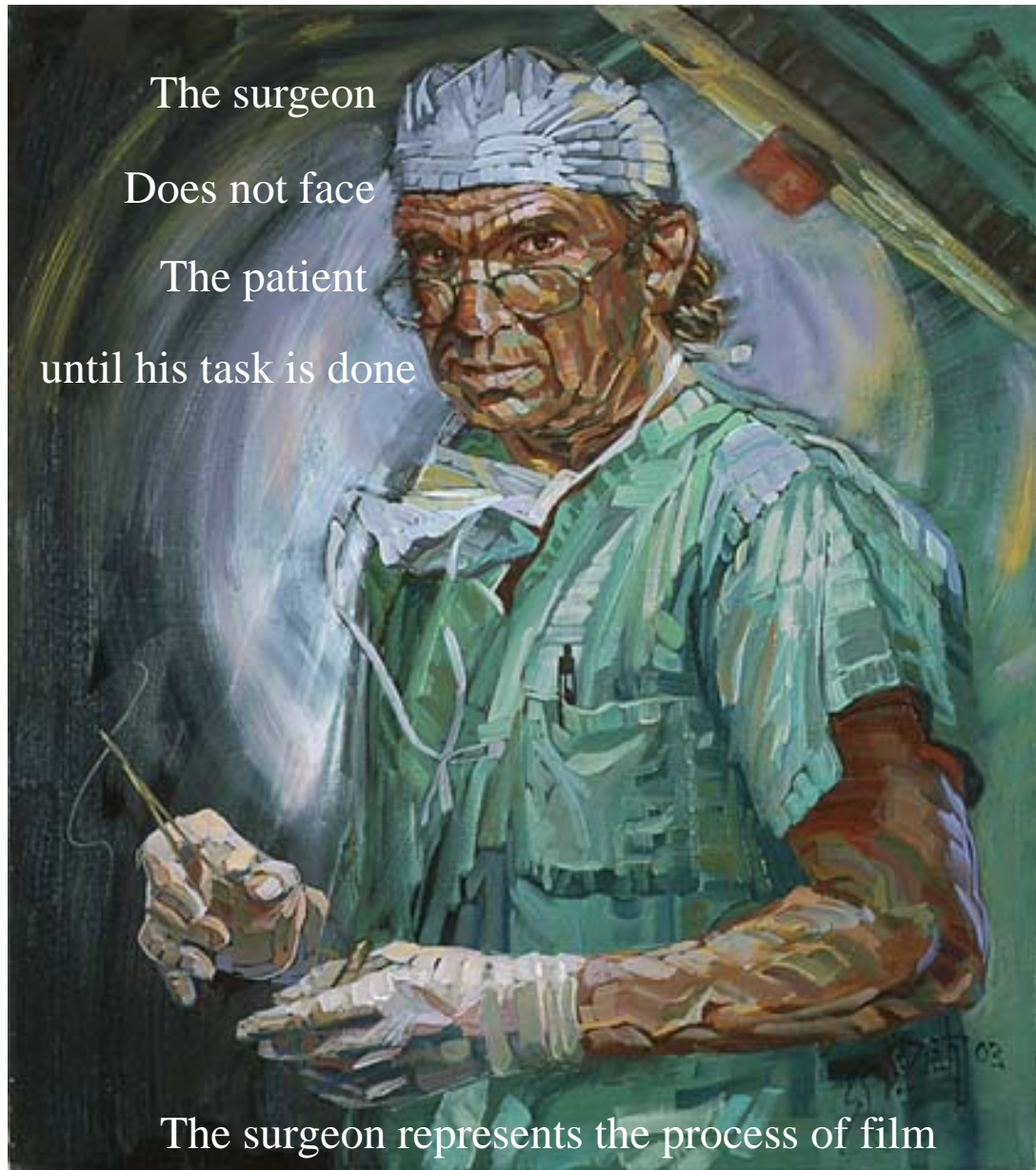
And their contrasting approaches to healing

The magician/healer is a metaphor for the painter.

Natural person to person contact



The surgeon
Does not face
The patient
until his task is done

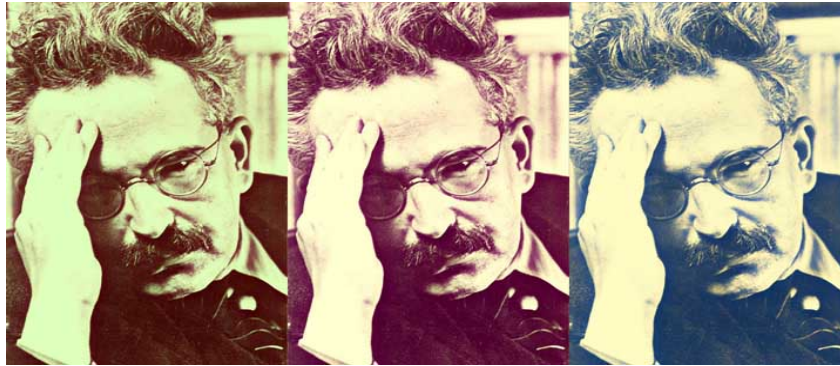


The surgeon represents the process of film

While both the artist and film maker produce artwork, the artwork made is profoundly different from each other.



The modern man sees film as a superior representation of reality.
Film is not even comparable to the work of a traditional painter.



Mechanical reproduction of art changes the reaction people, the masses, have toward art it self.

