In the Site of the Unseen: The Place of African-American Culture within Film

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The paper critically reflects upon my development of Claiming Open Spaces, The March, and Olmsted in the Site of the Unseen. It further examines the creation, distortion, re-mapping, dislocation, mythologies and loss of space in the construction of African American culture in cinema and the televisual experience. The paper examines the creation of place in films like Romeo Must Die and Down in the Delta, both Canadian landscapes representing Black Oakland, California and rural Mississippi. I also critically examine South-Central Los Angeles through the eyes of such filmmakers and Charles Burnett, the Hughes Brothers, F. Gary Grey and John Singleton. Finally I end with an examination of the dislocation of Cleveland African American life within the American cinematic discourse. I will show a number of video clips to emphasize my specific issues.