

Giulia Gabrielli:
An Analysis of the Relation between Music and Image:
The Contribution of Michel Gondry

In order to analyse any kind of audio-visual text, we need a starting hypothesis, a point of view through which we can study and examine it. These factors vary depending on who is dealing with the text and on the interests one person has developed throughout his studies: therefore, from the same object different ideas and analysis factors could arise. Nonetheless, any kind of analysis will be based on an attempt of accurate and in-depth comprehension of the message the author wants to convey to the recipient, and mainly of the ways through which this is achieved.

When analysing a video clip text, we cannot forgo to rely on theories which have been applied to the film phenomenon, be it of a semiological, narrative or aesthetic nature. By applying the studies to a film text we will achieve solid theoretical grounds and we can discover touching – or contrasting – points between these two types of audio-video languages. Starting from these studies it is possible to trace a classification of the different functions that music and image play towards each other.

When does the soundtrack determine the choice and rhythmic configuration of images, and (linked to this function) when do images manage to create associations to given parts of the music piece? By finding some practical examples of such functions, we will obtain an analysis which will deepen a still not much explored theoretical path.

Besides, starting from the theoretical investigation of these functions, it will be possible to examine already theorised concepts, such as synchronization points, but also new ones: the visual leitmotiv, the synchronic continuum, the visual mickeymousing. The director who mostly focused his attention on the concepts linked to the visual text-video clip is Michel Gondry, who explored through his works the potentials of the relationship which can arise between music and visual elements. This is why analysing in depth some of his texts is of crucial importance.