

Neil Gray



Gray's documentary film *Palimpsest* (2010) is included in the multidisciplinary *artists' moving image* learning resource. This resource is located at: www.artistsmovingimage.org.

Neil Gray describes *Palimpsest* as:

an **interrogative essay** on the constructed 'public' face of urban erasure.... a film that reflects my ongoing concerns with uneven **urban (under) development**. Drawing on the theoretical insights of **radical urban geography**, this film attempts to understand the '**regeneration**' process in Sandwell, West Bromwich as part of a wider process of **neo-liberal urbanism**.

As Gray comments in the third *Palimpsest* 'thesis'¹:

Low prices in land and rents are central to a developer's **ambitions**. **Capital's restless search for profits** requires constant renewal through cycles of **destruction**, devaluing the old, and making way for the new. **Exchange value** must always trump **use value**.

¹ The *Palimpsest* video consists of 10 interconnected 'theses', or sections