

Actuality

Online video promises its own authentic view, different from the “reality” of reality television or the crafted narrative of documentary. Several new genres seek to capture a special phenomenon, scene, moment, view, or experience, making an implicit claim that they present the world just as it is.

Webcam and Livestream

A webcam displays a continuous stream of regularly updated images or video from a fixed camera. The first webcam was used to monitor a coffee pot at the University of Cambridge, but networked cameras were soon setup to stream scenes including wildlife, traffic, and city streets. Webcams were also installed in homes, where “cammers” lived their lives on camera in ways that would portend lifecasting, sex camming, and contemporary social media. Today, a livestream can describe a webcam or any live event that is broadcast online, from a church service to live video game play. A key element of the contemporary livestream is a chat function that allows viewers to interact with other viewers and, when applicable, a stream's host.

timelapse of webcam images from Jennicam 1997-1999 | 13:45

Felix Baumgartner Space Jump World Record | 19:54 | 2012 | daniellaun89

10 streamers get swatted live | 9:53 | 2014 | Crowbcacat

Pitch Drop Time Lapse 3 years to date | :43 | 2015 | The University of Queensland

Real Life First Person Shooter (Chatroulette version) | 9:08 | 2015 | RealmPictures

Watch us explode this watermelon one rubber band at a time! | 44:57 | 2016 | Buzzfeed

Chain Reaction

Chain Reaction videos find drama in elaborate spectacles of delicately balanced objects, potential and kinetic energy, and expressions of randomness. These videos - impressive displays created with affordable, familiar materials - promise viewers the inevitability of a precarious situation resolved perfectly, as the laws of physics are proved comfortingly right.

OK Go - This Too Shall Pass - Rube Goldberg Machine - Official Video | 3:53 | 2010 | OK Go

The Page Turner | Rube Goldberg | Joseph's Machines | 2:07 | 2011 | Joseph Herscher / Joseph's Machines

INSANE Domino Tricks! (Havesh5 & MillionDollarBoy) | 3:53 | 2013 | Lily Hevesh / Hevesh5

128,000 Dominoes Falling into past a journey around the world 2 Guinness World Records Youtub | 7:12 | 2013 | Ahmed Samir

Marble Run in the Swimming Pool | 2:03 | 2013 | Scott's Marble Runs

Marble Race: Longest Sand Marble Run Ever! | 4:46 | 2015 | Jelle's Marble Runs

HUGE DOMINO SCREENLINK! (25,000 dominoes!) | 4:11 | 2015 | Dynamic Domino

Stick Bomb 18,169 sticks | 2:14 | 2015 | TheDominoKing

Marble Mountain, a themed marble machine (marble run) | 7:26 | 2016 | Ben Tardif

Line Rider - Mountain King | 2:45 | 2017 | Mark Robbins / DoodleChaos

Rube Goldberg Machine Baby Gender Reveal | 3:01 | 2017 | Taylor Camus

FIDGET SPINNERS VS DOMINOES | 2:05 | 2017 | Takamuna

The blue marble | 1:32 | 2018 | Kaplamino

Slow TV

Slow TV programs are live or pre-recorded, minimally edited documents of hours- or days-long events or activities like train rides and knitting parties. While Slow TV is primarily the effort of public broadcasting corporations (particularly Norway's NRK), the genre stands in direct contrast to the fragmented nature of viewer-guided, clip-focused media consumption in the internet era, offering a calming continuity of presence.

BergensBanen minutt for minutt | 7:14:13 | 2009 | NRK

All Aboard! The Sleigh Ride | 1:57:00 | 2015 | BBC Four

All Aboard! The Canal Trip | 1:58:28 | 2015 | BBC Four

港台電視32慢電視 - 漫。電視 (花旦化妝篇) | 1:00:01 | 2017 | RTHK

On Screen

Six explainer videos, produced by Polygon in association with Museum of the Moving Image, elaborate on some of the most significant new genres of online video: ASMR, Unboxing, Vlog, Let's Play, Reaction, and Explainer.

Action Point of View

Portable, wide angle, high-capacity cameras like those manufactured by GoPro have expanded the experiences and feats that can be captured for the screen. These thrilling videos offer glimpses of dramatic situations most viewers are incapable of achieving or would never dare to attempt themselves.

GoPro HD: Avalanche Cliff Jump with Matthias Giraud | 2:38 | 2011 | Matthias Giraud

Trombone Silliness | 1:46 | 2013 | David Finlayson

GoPro: Backflip over 72ft Canyon - Kelly McGarry Red Bull Rampage 2013 | 2:03 | 2013 | Kelly McGarry

GoPro: Fireman Saves Kitten | 2:03 | 2013 | Cory Kalanick

Flying eagle point of view #1 | 1:25 | 2013 | Jacques-Olivier Travers / Freedom

Yes it is True I Boiled my GoPro to Get You This Footage :) | :25 | 2014 | Davy Devaux / How To Make Sushi

A squirrel nabbed my GoPro and carried it up a tree (and then dropped it) | 1:06 | 2014 | Viva Frei

Fireworks filmed with a drone | 4:07 | 2014 | AlteredStates

GoPro: Wingsuit Flight Through 2 Meter Cave - Uli Emanuele | 2:43 | 2015 | Uli Emanuele

One of those days 3 - Candide Thovex | 4:49 | 2016 | Candide Thovex

Rooftop Escape POV | 3:34 | 2016 | Storrer

South Tower, New York | 3:23 | 2017 | on the roofs

SPENDING THE NIGHT IN A WATERPARK! (ESCAPED THE POLICE) | 21:52 | 2018 | Ryan TaylorTaylor

