Experimental Film

Art in Motion
Experimental Film

- Is hard to define
- From Wikipedia:
  - …a range of filmmaking styles that are generally quite different from, and often opposed to, the practices of mainstream commercial and documentary filmmaking.
- Ok, we know what it isn’t…what IS it?
Characteristics

- Non-narrative
  - They don’t tell stories like mainstream films
- Non collaborative
  - Usually made by one person, maybe a few
- Economic independence
  - Created by artists independently of studios
- Repetition of footage
  - Footage is often reused in different ways
Characteristics

- Phenomenology of dreams
  - Freud had a great impact on art and film
- Reflexivity
  - No effort to deceive the audience that they are witnessing reality
- Brevity
  - They are short, usually no longer than 20 min.
- Technological advancement
  - Editing, multiple exposures, jump cutting, superimposition, slow-motion, animation, etc.
Experimental Film = Art Film

- Takes art into realm of moving images
- Experimental film is intimately tied to the avant-garde in art
Cubism
De Stijl
Dada
Abstract Expressionism
Minimalism
Experimental Films

Georges Melies - Trip to the Moon - 1902 - 8 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxB2x9QzXb0&feature=fvwrel

Hans Richter - Rhythmus 21 - 1921 - 3:28 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7ghN43nfp0

Man Ray - La Retour a La Raison (Return to Reason) 1923 - 2 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh4RO_i5Cno&feature=related

Viking Eggeling - Symphony Diagonal - 1924 - 7 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpCl67GMe7o

Anemic Cinema - Marcel Duchamp - 1926 - 7 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXINTf8kXCc

Man Ray - Emak Bakia ('Leave Me Alone') - 1926 - 16 min.  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1y-OA6yf5s
Experimental Films

Rene Clair - Entre Act - 1924 - 18 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnXdYxvBHf8

Dali/Bunuel - Un Chien Andalou - 1929 - 16:25 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-CC6xdcpCM

Maya Deren - Meshes in the Afternoon - 1943 - 14 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S03Aw5HULU

Norman McLaren - Be Gone Dull Care - 1949 - 8 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8uktqgKgw0

Norman McLaren - Neighbours - 1952 - 8 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YAYGi8rQag

Norman Mclaren - Blinkety Blank - 1955 - 5 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkAhpQZrMZO
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Bruce Conner - Mongoloid - 1977 - 4 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FMjBtvsx2o

Stan Brakhage - Cats Cradle - 1959 - 6 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cur2P5Ym3Yw

Stan Brakhage - Mothlight - 1963 - 1 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaGh0D2NXCA

Norman McLaren - Pas de Deux - 1968 - 13 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h1ipObKYB4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCcc6sSfyYE

Chris Williamson - Eterno - 2006 - 7 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62I5HCrZdK8

Bill Viola - Acceptance - 2008 - 2 min.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJQmV8aNao