

Abstract

This thesis examines the issue of depicting reality and truth in contemporary documentary. Documentaries are often considered to be a mirror to the real world, but this is not always the case. Filmmakers can manipulate their work in a manner that changes the story to be more interesting for viewers. This thesis introduces a documentary discourse, provides contexts of documentary history in the 20th Century and looks more closely at issues of depicting reality and truth. This is shown through textual and visual analysis of chosen contemporary documentaries made by Errol Morris and Michael Moore.