

SLEEP

8 mins 1984

An infant's face fills the screen. The baby is asleep. It breathes, sighs and periodically sucks on a dream breast. Waking, crying and yawning form dramatic high points in the tape. Poetic license is freely used in this representation of a mother's timeless watching, of her wonderment and her desire. The child's image is rich with sentimental associations, but through an almost minimalist treatment, it shifts onto a visual plane. Then, I am told, other more speculative narrative possibilities emerge. These are as various as the members of any given audience. Death, dream/reality, primal undifferentiation, loss are some of the stories people have come up with.

" .....the only tape you've shown so far that I feel free to make something of...  
.... that is meaningful to me.."

Young black, male member of an audience. 1985

