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Americartune

1977. Color. 1.33 format. 86 min.

Producer-Director-Cinematographer-Editor: Tim Blaskovich /
Music: Philip Gonzales / *Production Company-Print Source:*
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Athens (Ohio) Film Festival 1977

Americartune is an experimental documentary exploration of the United States from the perspective of American culture's most pervasive and self-conscious symbol — the automobile. In his first feature effort, San Francisco photographer/filmmaker Tim Blaskovich has fused classic documentary techniques with elements of "structural" cinema, a branch of film theory and experimentation rooted in the works of Fernand Leger, Peter Kubelka and others.

The structure of the film is unrelenting continuity; forty states joined by the automobile, the road, the camera, and the filmmaker's perceptions. A vast, circular tour of America's physical and social landscape, *Americartune* records the starkness of the Southwest, the softness of the South, the energies of the Atlantic States, the lushness of New England, the expanse of the Midwest, the Great Plains, and finally, the majesty of the West.

On the simplest level, the film is a picturesque travelogue. On a more significant level, it is a compendium of telling realities which constitute a cinematic "definition" of a nation, its people, its history and perhaps even its future.