



## Charles Lum

# Gentleman of the Id

by  
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Cruising, porn, peeing and leatherwear; with mischievous pride, Charles Lum confesses that his films are about screening acts of the id. But more than just explicit and fetishistic sex, his work exhibits an intimate sensibility that comes from a commitment to equality and justice. Lum's lens is that of an engaged ethnographer, almost always present in his films and often participating in the documented activities. "I want to be part of things and not part of things at the same time," he explains. Hedonistic pastimes are revealed as rituals that provide their participants with a sense of identity, community, power and shared politics. Depicting his subjects and scenarios with such a warm involvement that they are not alienating, his objective is to celebrate a queer world that now, in our age of assimilation, could be in danger of being erased.

