











BIRDS
OF PARADISE :

COSTUME
AS
CINEMATIC
SPECTACLE

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The primitive allure of movies is a thing of light and shadows. A bad film is one which doesn't flicker and shift and move through lights and shadows, contrasts, textures by way of light... Images always give rise to a complex of feelings, thots [sic], conjectures, speculations, etc. Why then place value on good or bad scripts – since the best of scripts detracts most from the visual import. I suspect we are less comfortable in the visual realm than in the literary. Visual truths are blunt ...

— *Jack Smith*