

To come to the point [he wrote]: the cinema is quite simply becoming a means of expression, just as all the other arts have before it, and in particular painting and the novel. After having been successively a fair-ground attraction, an amusement analogous to boulevard theatre, or a means of preserving the images of an era, it is gradually becoming a language. By language, I mean a form in which and by which an artist can express his thoughts, however abstract they may be, or translate his obsessions exactly as he does in a contemporary essay or novel. That is why I would like to call this new age of cinema the age of *caméra stylo*.

Alexandre Astruc, “The Birth of a New Avant-Garde: *La Caméra-Stylo*,” in *The New Wave*, ed. Peter Graham. Trans. from *Ecran Français* 144, 30 March 1948.