

Teresa Hubbard and and Alexander Birchler

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About 15 miles from the small town Sierra Blanca in southwestern Texas is a rocky prominence, called [Movie Mountain](#), rising from the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert to about 5,000 feet above sea level.

How this unprepossessing peak got its name is the subject of Teresa Hubbard and Alexander


Birchler's beautifully made two-screen, high-definition video "Méliès." To the sound of melancholy piano music, the 24-minute film interweaves panoramic landscapes and interviews with local people who vaguely recall that someone shot a silent movie, a western, on or near Movie Mountain early in the 20th century. No one is quite sure who made that early film, but two of the interviewees say they had relatives who were employed as extras. The artists conclude that Gaston Méliès, brother of the cinema pioneer [Georges Méliès](#), made that lost movie around 1910 or 1911 during a stopover in Sierra Blanca while relocating to California from San Antonio.

"Grand Paris Texas" (2009), a single-screen film also on view [here](#), explores the city where [Wim Wenders](#)'s "Paris, Texas" ostensibly was set. That movie was not shot in the real Paris, Tex., a suburban sprawl that looks nothing like the setting of Mr. Wenders's film. With recollections supplied by local residents, the artists focus on the town's defunct Grand Paris movie theater, where Mr. Wenders's film was shown when it was released in 1984. As in "Méliès," the meandering, understated emergence of cinematic fact and fiction is captivating to watch.

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