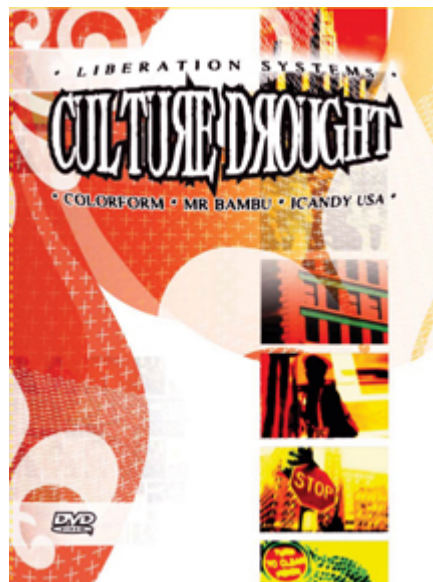


Culture Drought

If you are looking for a DVD with evocative art and a killer, urban dance soundtrack, look no further than *Culture Drought*. What sets this presentation apart from others like it is that *Culture Drought* can transcend barriers and make you think outside the box, much like the artists and visuals featured on this disc.

Culture Drought, released in worldwide distribution by Liberation Systems head Colorform aka James Allen, is a journey into the depths of the New York sonic underground through his eyes, in the form of an audio-collage. Allen came up with the idea after managing the DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid tour in 2002. From this venture, he was given the opportunity to run Spooky's label, Synchronic, and release his introduction LP. Through his continued work at Synchronic and connections, Allen started his own label, Liberation Systems.

Culture Drought is not just mundane images of Manhattan or Lady Liberty clipped together - it is more moving than that. The pictures are everyday underground shots of NYC, simplistic yet telling a tale through montages of cut and paste videos. The shots are fast paced, typical to life in New York City and also colorful, recognizing that life is not just black, white and grey. The movie has a strong element of wanting more, never ceasing from the endless rush. The series of videos plays similar to an art installation piece, perfect for putting on as a background for a party or club night.



The other important element to the DVD is the music paired with the videos. *Culture Drought* features tracks from AK1200, Meat Beat Manifesto, Constant Flux, Colorform and many others. The music is placed well with the content, intensifying the feelings of wantonness. The beats are forceful, strong, and grimy - giving essence to what really goes on in the underground. The fact that the mix of music ranges from jungle to hip-hop to electronic depicts feelings inherent to the streets where conditions can change at any moment. One minute there is frenzy, the next calm, and the next sheer confusion. This is the heart of New York City.

Culture Drought is a journey. Where viewing this may take you to the unknown now, where you end up is up to you. Just open you eyes, ears, and mind and take the ride.

By: Megan Silvera

