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MECHANICAL FOREST SOUND



That did a nice job of setting up *Maître-Vent* (Dir: Simon Quéhiellard. France, 2012. Video, 22 min.), the longest (and best) piece in the program. An ode to wind, child-like experimentation, failure and entropy, the film

presents us with a roadside figure in a Hulot-like hat setting up found-item assemblages as traffic zips by. The projects (made of cardboard boxes, tubes, plastic bags and the like) sometimes quickly collapse, leaving a sense of Wile E Coyote-ish frustration. But sometimes they work in unexpectedly elegant ways and provoke wonderment. Filled with genuine humour (and showing how simple it is to invest anthropomorphic qualities in even, say, plastic bags yearning to be free) this works as a tribute to classic silent-film slapstick. There are layers beyond this, too — the film is broken into sections named after various kinds of winds, for example, prompting us to think of a time when we were more closely tied to the various aspects of nature. Definitely worth seeking out.