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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

MATTHEW BUCKINGHAM

The history of film becomes fodder for a conspiracy theory in Buckingham's "False Future," an artlessly simple but elegantly structured 16-mm. work that delves into the life of Louis Le Prince (1842-90), a Frenchman who may have invented film several years before the Lumière brothers. (He was granted a U.S. patent for a motion-picture camera in 1888.) Le Prince disappeared while travelling from Dijon to Paris, and his only known footage was of a bridge in Leeds, England. (Buckingham shows his own footage of the bridge here.) Fleeting, fascinating tidbits—about vision, about the location of the eyes in predators and prey—are woven into a richly poetic and intelligent narrative. Through April 19. (Murray Guy, 453 W. 17th St. 212-463-7372.)