

# Mourning & Melancholia at the Movies.



- TO WHICH FILMS DO YOU  
TURN WHEN FEELING  
TROUBLED?
- HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT  
REPRESENTING MOURNING  
AND MELANCHOLIA

# OUTLINE

- Film and psychoanalysis
- Representations of mourning and melancholia in 3 films
  - Three Colours: Blue
    - Melancholia
    - Signs of Life

# Film & psychoanalysis

- BORN AT THE SAME MOMENT
- BOTH WORK WITH IMAGES
  - UNCONSCIOUS SCENES
    - THE DREAM WORK

# PSYCHIATRISTS/ PSYCHOANALYSTS AT THE MOVIES

- RESIDENT DOCTORS
  - SABBADINI
  - FILM CLUB
    - EPFF

# Film psychoanalysis

## GABBARD

- The explication of underlying cultural mythology
  - The film as reflective of the film maker's subjectivity
- The film as representative of a universal moment of development or crisis

# GABBARD

- The application of Freud's dream work to film
- The analysis of spectatorship
  - The appropriation of psychoanalytic concepts by the film maker

# GABBARD

- The analysis of a character in the narrative
- The opportunity to rework previous traumatic losses at one remove

# Film psychoanalysis: HAMBURGER

- RELATIONAL  
PSYCHOANALYSIS
- DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HOW  
THE FILM IMPACTS THE VIEWER
- CINEMATOGRAPHY

# CINEMATOGRAPHY

- USE OF COLOUR
- IMAGES OF WATER
  - THE SEA
- SWIMMING POOLS



# **SIGNS OF LIFE**

JOSEPH MILLSON: 2025

# SIGNS OF LIFE

○ I'M NOT DEAF: I JUST DON'T  
SPEAK

○ MELANCHOLIA V MANIA

# SIGNS OF LIFE

- THE LANDSCAPE
- BLEAK: HARSHNESS AND  
DESOLATION
- VOLCANIC: FURY

# SIGNS OF LIFE



- SWIMMING  
POOL SCENE
- THE SEA



# MELANCHOLIA

LARS VON TRIER

'It's not a film about the end of the world but about a state of mind: melancholy'



**JUSTINE**

Bride or Corpse

Wedding dress  
or shroud....



**CLAIRE**

THE END OF  
THE WORLD...

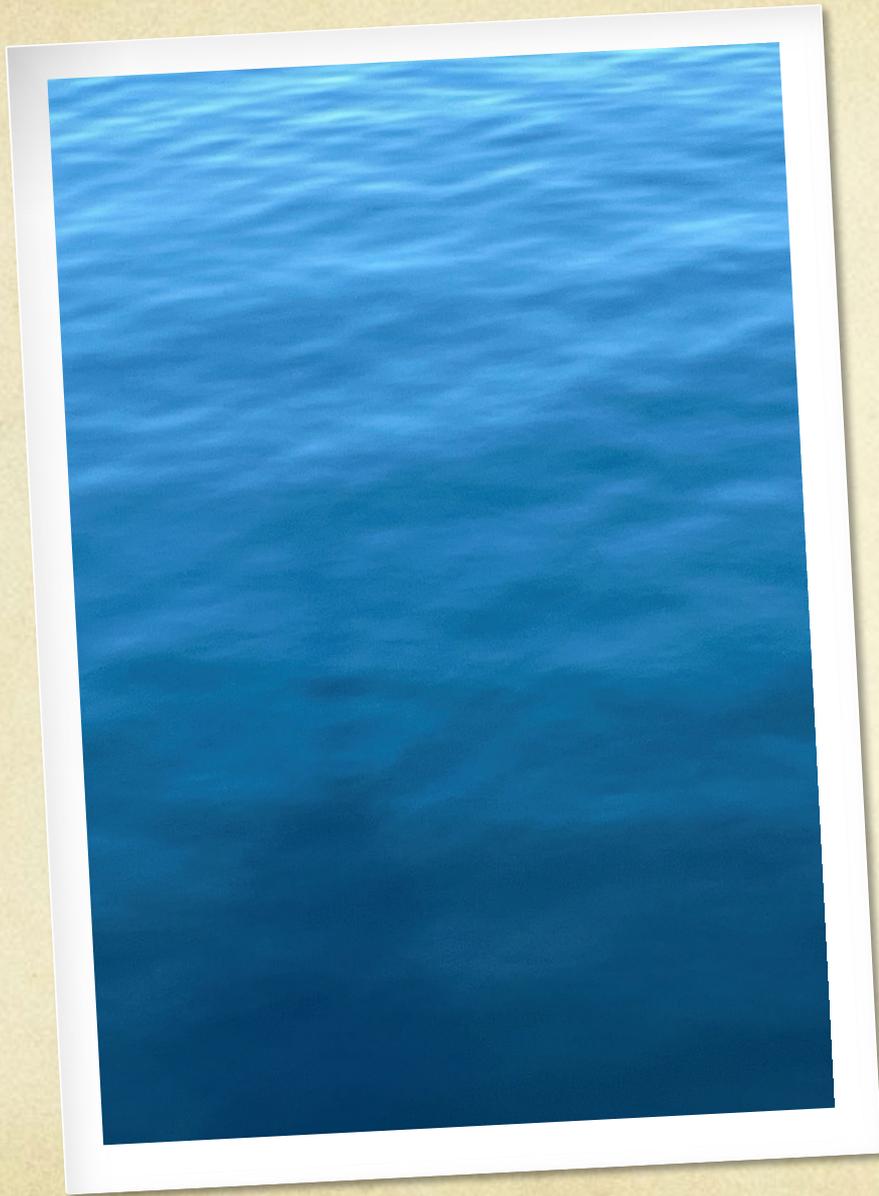
○ 'ON THE EXPERIENCE OF A  
MELANCHOLIC GAZE'

○ BAINBRIDGE





TROIS COULEURS:  
BLEU



**JULIE**

SWIMMING

POOL SCENES

# CONCLUSION

- LOSS IS CENTRAL TO LIFE
- ALL FILMS REPRESENT SOME KIND OF LOSS
- THESE THREE FILMS REPRESENT RESPONSES TO TRAUMATIC LOSS

# CONCLUSION

- USE OF THE COLOUR BLUE
  - IMAGES OF WATER
  - THE MYSTERIOUS WILD SEA
- THE CONTAINED SWIMMING POOL
  - FOG /RAIN
  - TEARS...

# REFERENCES ON REQUEST

- BAINBRIDGE C
- FREUD S
- HAMBURGER A
- KLEIN M
- TAYLOR-ROBINSON H
- SABBADINI A