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## Thinking Through Images: Spectatorship, Suffering, and Philosophical Cinema in Ingmar Bergman and Lars von Trier

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**Abstract:**

*This article explores cinema as a mode of philosophical inquiry through the films of Ingmar Bergman and Lars von Trier. Moving beyond approaches that treat film as a vehicle for illustrating philosophical ideas, the study argues that both filmmakers produce philosophy through audiovisual form, affect, and spectatorship. Drawing on film-philosophy, phenomenology, and existential thought, the article demonstrates how Bergman's introspective, metaphysical cinema and von Trier's ethically provocative narratives destabilize knowledge, foreground embodiment, and confront viewers with*

*existential dilemmas. Through close readings of *Persona* (1966), *The Seventh Seal* (1957), *Melancholia* (2011), and *Breaking the Waves* (1996), the article shows how spectators are transformed into active philosophical agents. By situating these filmmakers within a shared framework of "thinking images," the study contributes to contemporary debates in film-philosophy and redefines spectatorship as an embodied and interpretive philosophical practice.*

**Keywords:**

*Film-philosophy, spectatorship, existentialism, phenomenology, cinematic thinking*