Barbara London

1. Tekkon Kinkreet (Michael Arias; Studio 4°C) In this feature-length anime, a raven ominously soars across Tokyo’s vast skies before diving down to saunter along the streets of a ramshackle old neighborhood, where good and evil mesmerizingly play out to the tune of progress.

2. The Road to Mount Weather (Cliff Evans; Location One, New York) With a pinch of Hieronymous Bosch and another of William S. Burroughs, Evans’s three-channel video installation brilliantly portrays twenty-first-century phobias in this up-to-the-minute version of purgatory.

3. Digital Video Effect: “Editions” (Seth Price) Sampling his own limited-edition media work, which is itself composed of snippets of images grabbed from the Web and from other artists’ videos, Price wittily questions the meaning of originality and collectibility in a “modestly” priced, rolling ten-minute video that should last through the ages.

4. 8 Bit (Marcin Ramocki and Justin Strawhand) A first feature that is part rockumentary, part art exposé, and part culture-critical investigation, 8 Bit cleverly ties together 1980s phenomena of the demo scene, chip-tune music, and artists using “machinima” and modified computer games.

5. The Music of Regret (Laurie Simmons) Derring-do by a veteran artist perhaps best known for her uncanny photographs of dolls, The Music of Regret brings Simmons’s characters to life in an unforgettable three-act miniuminal.

6. No Snow on the Broken Bridge (Yang Fudong; Marian Goodman Gallery, New York) Hovering between classical Chinese brush-and-ink painting and Shanghai cinema of the ’20s, Fudong’s enveloping eight-screen landscape, populated by angst-ridden youth, springs eternal.

7. Still Life (Jia Zhang-ke) In the midst of breathtaking views of the Three Gorges—China’s natural wonder disappearing under the floodwaters of an epic dam project—Jia lets loose both artistically and emotionally, exploiting the larger-than-life “realness” of HD video.

8. The Science of Sleep (Michel Gondry) Music-video master Gondry again captures the goofiness and innocence of love, through beguilingly homespun special effects.

9. Shan Pipe Band Learns the Star Spangled Banner (Bani Abidi; Singapore Biennale) In Abidi’s two-channel video, a Lahore, Pakistan–based brass pipe band tries—through agonizingly diligent practice—to master the American national anthem, which they play in a jarring final performance while dressed in wool tartan uniforms under a sweltering sun.

10. Remembering Arthur (Martin Lavut) Subject matter triumphs in this feature-length documentary on the brilliantly original Canadian experimental filmmaker Arthur Lipsett, who has long deserved recognition for his innovations.