

1. Creating an Overlay

Creating an overlay means laying one video track over another. This creates some often beautiful and painterly effects and can be particularly strong when combined with fast/slow motion and/or reverse video. Students should experiment freely but best results are achieved when 'space' is left on one track by filming against a white wall for example, or inverting your clip (see 1c).

Currently **iMovie** does not offer this feature but the overlap transition will give something similar for up to 10 seconds. Experiment with the following and add your own ideas:

- Found footage from feature films, adverts or historical documentaries, views through a microscope.
- Rain on glass
- A face under water
- Images of Art using the Ken Burns effect
- A spinning bicycle wheel
- Newspaper/Telephone book
- The night sky

Reference

Clip 1.1 explores a theme of sexual violence, using flowers as a powerful metaphor.

Clip 1.2 uses the overlay technique with colour filters to evoke memory.

Clip 1.3 cleverly combines inverted and reversed shots, while 1.4 creates a poignant abstract of hands to emphasise the despair of drug addiction.

Clip 1.4 combines period and modern imagery to a haunting effect

Tutorial 1 – Creating an Overlay