The Renaissance Society
at The University of Chicago
110 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607

Opening Reception: Sunday, September 16, 4:00-7:00pm

Featuring a talk with the artist 4:00–5:00pm

Steve McQueen

Gravesend

September 16 – October 28, 2007

The Grand Scheme of Things

"The Grand Scheme of Things" refers to a period in late 19th Century world affairs when Africa's interior was fervently viewed under European imperialist representation. The British, the Portuguese, the French, and the Dutch all hoped to make their respective empires into self-sufficient, functioning, and profitable economic entities. This was achieved by gaining control and access to the Congo's vast mineral wealth. Lack of any legitimacy for colonial rule, never mind powers for colonialism was a false and fictitious belief, leading to a violent and ruthless scramble for loot. This is a period characterized by the bloodiest scramble for loot in the history of humanity, as European powers sought to control Africa's mineral wealth. The European powers believed that controlling Africa's mineral wealth was crucial for their economic and military success. This period was marked by fierce competition and conflict among European powers to gain control and access to Africa's mineral wealth. The scramble for loot led to the exploitation of Africa's resources and its people, and it was characterized by violence, poverty, and suffering. The Grand Scheme of Things was ultimately a failure, as it failed to achieve its goals of self-sufficiency and profitability. The European powers were unable to control Africa's mineral wealth, and the cost of controlling it was too high. The Grand Scheme of Things was a period of experimentation and failure, and it is a reminder of the importance of understanding history and its lessons. The Grand Scheme of Things is a period that is not only relevant to the history of humanity, but also to the present day, as the scramble for loot continues to this day in various parts of the world.