

## Around the Art World in Six Minutes



Bill Viola, *The Martyr* (2014). Photo: TV Lab via Facebook

**The Profile:** "I saw this blue glow on the screen before the actual image came up, something in my brain said I'd be doing this all my life," says eminent video artist Bill Viola about the first time he turned on a video camera in Nicholas Wroe's excellent look back at the artist's career in the *Guardian*. Published to coincide with the unveiling of Viola's long-term installation *Martyrs* (2014) at St. Paul's Cathedral in London last week. Wroe gives the gist of the piece, but Viola's early years are of more pointed interest: "There was this sense back then of all these big green pastures filled with different things: painting and sculpture, film, photography. And then we came along with our videos, which everyone else thought were toys, and we found a pasture that didn't have a lock on the gate and we just walked in. It was empty as far as the eye could see and you could stay for as long as you liked and do whatever you liked. That was our new field, and that was my career."