

PRESS RELEASE

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USFCAM Hours: M-F 10am-5pm, Sat 1-4pm

Admission to the Museum is free; parking permit (\$5.00) required

BROADCAST

June 4 – August 7, 2010

Reception: June 4, 7–9PM

Broadcast explores ways in which artists since the late 1960s have engaged, critiqued, and inserted themselves into official channels of broadcast television and radio. The exhibition features thirteen works by an international group of artists, including Dara Birnbaum, Chris Burden, Gregory Green, Doug Hall, Chip Lord and Jody Procter, Christian Jankowski, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, neurotransmitter, Antonio Muntadas, Nam June Paik, TVTV/Top Value Television and Siebren Versteeg. The show features single-channel monitor-based videos, video-projection works, photography, installations, and interactive broadcasting projects.

Ranging in date from 1966 to 2007, the works in the exhibition make use of one of two strategies: broadcasting and re-broadcasting. The former refers to works that involve an artist intervening into existing broadcasts or broadcasting channels by participating in a live broadcast (either as an invited or uninvited participant) or by creating a broadcast. The latter features the use or manipulation of previously existing TV or radio material. Within each of these strategies, there are two impulses followed by the artists—either an iconoclastic, aggressive position, at times intended to question FCC regulations on the one hand, or a more cooperative and collaborative position on the other.

While this exhibition focuses primarily on more recent artists' explorations of broadcast themes, *Broadcast* includes a selection of important early works that trace the development of this increasingly relevant area of artistic production. Some artists in the late 1960s and 1970s began to broadcast on their own, seeking a parallel system to commercial broadcast television, while others began to cooperate with progressive public television stations that invited artists to participate in residency programs. Some of the first works by the guerrilla television group TVTV were edited at WNET's TV Lab such as the landmark documentary, *Four More Years*, (1972). An iconoclastic view of the American electoral process, *Four More Years* is TVTV's irreverent coverage of Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign and the Republican convention in Miami.

In a hostile intervention, Chris Burden's *TV Hijack*, (1972) was his response to a TV station's repeated rejection of his proposals for TV programming ideas, and was a challenge to what Burden viewed as the control television has on our lives. During a live broadcast on Channel 3 Cablevision in Irvine, California, on February 9, 1972, Burden took his interviewer Phyllis Lutjeans hostage with a small knife held to her throat and threatened her life if the station stopped the live transmission of the incident. At the end of the recording the artist destroyed the tapes of the interview.

Instances of critical reuse of previously broadcasted material include *Hostage* (1994) by Dara Birnbaum that uses archival media coverage from the 1977 kidnapping of the German industrialist Hanns Martin Schleyer by the Baader Meinhof group, or Antonio Muntadas' *The Last Ten Minutes*, (1976-77) which studies broadcasting conventions in cities worldwide at different moments in history.

Christian Jankowski's video work, *Telemistica*, (1999) which was first shown at the 1999 Venice Biennale, features footage from live broadcasts of psychics on local Venetian television stations. Jankowski called a number of these popular shows and posed questions to the psychics and astrologers about how his work would be received at the Biennale. Some of Jankowski's questions include: "What will the public think about my work?" "Will they like it?" "Will I be successful?"

Whether appropriating its conventions and programs, or engaging in a live TV or radio broadcast, the artists in this exhibition subvert the authority and influence of a pervasive and powerful medium.

About the Curator

Irene Hofmann is Executive Director of the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore. Some of her recent exhibitions include *Cell Phone: Art and the Mobile Phone* and *St. Cecilia*, a solo exhibition of works by Joseph Grigely. Previously, as Curator of Contemporary Art at the Orange County Museum of Art, she was co-curator of the 2002 and 2004 California Biennial and the photography and video exhibition *Girls' Night Out*. She has organized exhibitions and projects with artists such as Kutlug Ataman, Mark Dion, Jason Dodge, Fabrice Gygi, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, and Marjetica Potrč.

Audio Tour

A cell phone audio tour led by Irene Hofmann with comments from five of the artists in the exhibition is available in the USFCAM.

Credits

Broadcast is a traveling exhibition co-organized by the Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, and iCI (Independent Curators International), New York, and circulated by iCI. The guest curator is Irene Hofmann. The exhibition and tour are made possible, in part, with support from the iCI Exhibition Partners.

The Institute for Research in Art is recognized by the State of Florida as a major cultural institution and receives funding through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council. The USF Contemporary Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums.