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NEWS

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*****Video and violence.

DALLAS--The use of video as both art and documentary will be presented at the Violence in America symposia at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas the weekend of April 12 and 13.

Included on the program will be video works ranging from a re-enactment of the assassination of John F. Kennedy to a drama centering around a skyjacking, featuring paper dolls as characters, to a special documentary made by KXAS-TV (Fort Worth). The KXAS documentary, to be aired April 9, as well as shown as part of the symposia, will be about violence among people who know each other.

Violence in America is a series of programs looking at the origins of violence as a help in working toward eventual solutions. Sponsors are the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, its psychiatric services at John Peter Smith Hospital and the Elmwood Foundation, both of the latter in Fort Worth. Other sponsors include the Fort Worth Federal Correctional Institute, KXAS and Tarrant County Junior College System.

The Dallas symposia will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 12 and 13 and 26-27. The Fort Worth session will be held May 4 during the same hours.

Videotapes to be presented and discussed the first weekend of the program include the following:

The Nurse and the Hijackers, produced by Eleanor Antin, well-known video artist with national and international exhibitions to her credit. The tape, done in 1977, utilizes both color and sound and is two hours in length. In the drama Antin uses the structure of a popular movie genre for her continuing theater of ideas. Her alter-ego, Little Nurse Eleanor, and Eleanor's friend Cissy, an airline stewardess, are on the way to San Tropez when the plane is skyjacked. The drama is staged as a game of paper dolls.

Selections, produced by controversial performing artist Chris Burden between 1971 and 1975 runs 36 minutes. Some parts are done in color; others, in black and white. Burden has attracted international attention for his attempts to investigate psychological experiences peculiar to risk. In Shoot a bullet is fired through his left arm; in Icarus he balances two six-foot sheets of glass splashed with flaming gasoline; in Velvet Water he almost drowns himself. It is the artist's intention that the viewer undergo similar emotions as the artist comments about his intentions and feelings about these experiments. Burden, an extremely controversial figure to behavioral scientists, is nevertheless considered to be an en passant contemporary figure by many art critics.

The Selling of a Video Artist, produced by Les Levine, video artist who struggles with the relation of artist to society. The Selling of a Video Artist, done in 1976, is in color and lasts four minutes. The piece is a four-minute commercial for video art in which the artist explains the difference between television and video art and uses the concept of a commercial to sell his own image.

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first add video and violence

The Eternal Frame, produced by the Ant Farm, a group of experimental artists based in San Francisco. The troupe came to Dallas in 1975, along with members of the T.R. Uthco Co., to stage a live re-enactment of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The Eternal Frame is an edited 22-minute videotape of this event. The production shows the transformation of the artist into the central characters of the drama and follows them in their limousine through Dealey Plaza. The tape is credited with being uncanny in its ability to recreate images which mesmerized the world in 1963.

The Heart That Doesn't Heal, produced by Lee Elsesser, special projects director at KXAS, is a 30-minute color documentary on violence among people who know each other. The show traces the development of violence from childhood and suggests solutions.

Interviews, produced by Leland Wino, author of articles on Eastern Philosophy, is a 30-minute tape of interviews of violent men he has known. An ex-offender, Wino is also known as a Zen master, and expert on motorcycles and the martial arts.

Other presentations on tape will include Diamond Mind, a 1980 20-minute presentation showing how people deal with change in their lives and The Killing of the Father, an account of the day that Joseph Colombo was shot in New York. In the latter, a camera is pointed at an Italian street club and eight hours are squeezed into half an hour via time lapse.

Panelists for the weekend include Anne Livet, art consultant and author of Contemporary Dance; Melinda Wortz, director of the Department of Art, the University of California, who is currently working on a book on spirituality in art; Dr. Mark Thistlethwaite, art department faculty member at Texas Christian University; Dr. Harold Mendelsohn, Center for Mass Communications, Research and Policy, The University of Denver; Elsesser and Blake Bryne, station manager, KXAS. Moderator will be Mitchel Levitas, editor of "Week in Review," The New York Times and author of the text for America in Crisis, a pictorial history of violence in the United States, published by Magnum in 1969. A photography show taken from the book will be on display, along with an exhibit from Black Star, at the health science center from April 12-27.

Also on display will be paintings of violence in Guatemala by native artist Elmar René Rojas who will also participate in the symposia.

The programs are open to the public. Charge is \$5 per weekend and \$3 for the May 4 session of the South Campus, Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth. There is no charge for visiting the exhibits at the health science center, but parking is more restricted during regular working hours.

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