

WARP DRIVES

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About EAI

Founded in 1971, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is one of the world's leading nonprofit resources for video art. A pioneering advocate for media art and artists, EAI fosters the creation, exhibition, distribution, and preservation of video art and digital art. EAI's core program is the distribution and preservation of a major collection of over 3,500 new and historical media works by artists. EAI's activities include viewing access, educational services, extensive online resources, and public programs such as artists' talks, exhibitions and panels. The Online Catalogue is a comprehensive resource on the artists and works in the EAI collection, and also features extensive materials on exhibiting, collecting and preserving media art: www.eai.org



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ELECTRONIC ARTS INTERMIX



WARP DRIVES

EAI is please to present *Warp Drives*, a special summer screening of videos driven by science fiction's far-out forms of matter and energy. In videos that range from dark stories of doomsday and destruction to speculative meditations on technological evolution and alienation, artists **Peggy Ahwesh**, **Joan Jonas**, **George Kuchar**, **Tony Oursler**, and **Ryan Trecartin** confront us with visions of individuals disconnected from the present or inhabiting alien psychological states. The artists transport us to parallel universes eerily similar to our own, but governed by radically different conceptions of reality.

Rendered with his signature hand-painted sets and wildly constructed props, Tony Oursler's *Spinout* (1983, 16:02 min) is a tale of a world spinning out of control to nowhere. Starring a cast of inanimate objects, Oursler's expressionistic theater embraces space travel, astrology, the universe, catastrophe and madness. In *Heaven's Gate* (2000-01, 3:53 min), Peggy Ahwesh re-presents text from the website of the infamous UFO cult of the same name to build a minimalist portrait of the end-of-the-world paranoia that runs through the American social body. George Kuchar's *The Tower of the Astro-Cyclops* (1994, 17:37 min), is a playful look at the UFO phenomenon—a video portrait of Jacques Vallée, an author, computer scientist, and amateur astronomer who has devoted much of his life to researching UFOs and extraterrestrial encounters.

Inspired by the science fiction story *Universe* by Robert Heinlein, Joan Jonas' rarely-screened video *Double Lunar Dogs* (1984, 24:04 min) is an Orwellian vision of post-apocalyptic survival aboard a drifting spaceship whose timeless travellers have forgotten the purpose of their mission. To recapture memory, and create a continuum between their unknown origin and uncertain destination, the characters in this disjunctive, philosophical narrative play metaphorical games with words and archetypal objects. In *What's The Love Making Babies For* (2003, 20 min), one of Ryan Trecartin's earliest videos, the artist speculates in vivid animation about reproduction, sexuality, and contemporary moralities. Evoking lo-fi, promotional, cult-worship videos, Trecartin and his fantastically costumed collaborators manufacture an alien yet familiar reality, hyper-saturated with media.

PROGRAM

Spinout

Tony Oursler

1983, 16:02 min, color, sound

Heaven's Gate

Peggy Ahwesh

2000-01, 3:53 min, color, sound

The Tower of the Astro-Cyclops

George Kuchar

1994, 17:37 min, color, sound

Double Lunar Dogs

Joan Jonas

1984, 24:04 min, color, sound

What's The Love Making Babies For

Ryan Trecartin

2003, 20:00 min, color, sound