



EAI Presents at Monkeytown **OCTOBER 2005: *Imagination Station***

DARA BIRNBAUM SHANA MOULTON MICHAEL SMITH
BRUCE AND NORMAN YONEMOTO

Thursday, October 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2005

First Seating: 7:30 pm

Secod Seating: 10:00 pm

Program length: 90 minutes

Admission: \$10

Monkeytown: 58 North 3rd Street, Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Reservations are recommended: www.monkeytownhq.com



After a hard day at work, most people unwind in front of the television. TV allows people to take a break from their own lives and live vicariously through familiar strangers on a screen. Fantastic situations abound on the airwaves, but there is also a wealth of the ordinary and the melodramatic. People come home from the office and watch sitcoms set in fictional offices. This is how millions of people spend their brief and fleeting leisure time. Why? This program presents video works by five artists who explore the strange phenomena that arise from living so closely with melodrama.

Dara Birnbaum's provocative video works are among the most influential and innovative contributions to the contemporary discourse on art and television. Using a dynamic language of images, music and text, Birnbaum exposes the media's embedded ideological meanings and posits video as a means of giving voice to the individual.

Shana Moulton has created a character named Cynthia who wears clothing embedded with medical devices and surrounds herself with inspirational new age knickknacks. In a series of episodic videos, performances and installations, Moulton depicts Cynthia's search for purpose, fulfillment and salvation through her banal home decorations.

Michael Smith invokes the routines of popular comedy to express the banality and hype of mass consumer culture, and the isolation of those whose inner lives are defined by it. In a series of works produced since the late 1970s, Smith chronicles the trivial dreams and adventures of his fictional alter-ego, the deadpan "Mike," a postmodern Everyman who believes everything and understands nothing in his media-saturated world.

Bruce and Norman Yonemoto are California-based brothers who have produced videos together since 1976. In their work, they deconstruct and rewrite the vernacular of the mass media. Ironically employing the image-language and narrative syntax of popular forms such as soap operas and advertising, the Yonemotos work from "the inside out" to reveal the media's pervasive manipulation of reality and fantasy.

Works to be screened:

Dara Birnbaum:

Technology/Transformation: Wonder Woman, 1978-79

Pop-Pop Video: Kojak/Wang, 1980

Fire! Hendrix, 1982

Shana Moulton:

Whispering Pines 1, 2002
Whispering Pines 2, 2003
Feeling Free with 3D Magic Eye Poster Remix, 2004
Whispering Pines 3, 2004

Michael Smith:

Down in the Rec Room, 1979, re-edited 1981
Go For It, Mike, 1984
Mike Builds a Shelter, 1985
Mike, 1987

Bruce and Norman Yonemoto:

Vault, 1984

Programmed by Josh Kline.

About EAI: Founded in 1971, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is one of the world's leading nonprofit resources for video art and interactive media. As a pioneer and advocate of the media arts and artists, EAI's core program is the international distribution of a major collection of new and historical media works by artists. EAI's leadership position in the media arts extends to our preservation program, viewing access, educational services, online resources, exhibitions and events. The Online Catalogue provides a comprehensive resource on the 175 artists and 3,000 works in the EAI collection, including artists' biographies, descriptions of works, QuickTime excerpts, research materials, Web projects, and online ordering.

For more information about this program contact: Josh Kline (josh@eai.org) T: (212)-337-0680 www.eai.org
Electronic Arts Intermix 535 West 22nd Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10011