

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

Antonio Muntadas

Personal / Public
Video Installation
The Gallery, April
Tues-Sat 1-6pm

Three Videotapes
Video Viewing Room
April 1-26, 1-2pm

In April, The Kitchen presents the work of Spanish artist Antonio Muntadas. April a video installation entitled Personal/Public will be featured in The Gallery; April 1-26, the Video Viewing Room will include three recent videotapes: Liege 12.9.77 and Between the Lines (shown on odd-numbered days) and On Subjectivity: About TV (shown on even-numbered days).

Muntadas works with communications systems and their social implications, the general area that he calls 'media landscape.' The media landscape is an invisible environment composed of media-produced images and the mechanisms and effects of media, both visible and invisible. Muntadas notes that his efforts are aimed at the development of a 'critical subjectivity.' He sees the dichotomies of subjective/objective, personal/public and visible/invisible as functions of this development.

GALLERY--April Personal/Public focuses on the intersection where personal information is rendered public by the media and public information becomes personal by individual interpretation. The installation of TV monitors, live camera and simulated viewing situation is designed to make this intersection visible.

VIDEO VIEWING ROOM--April 1-26 Three videotapes. Liege 12.9.77 (1977) is an 18-minute color tape produced for Belgium TV. It is a consideration of the media's handling of information in a multi-lingual country (French, English, Flemish and German): TV vs. VTR. Between the Lines (1979), a 25-minute color tape, deals with the mental and physical informational limits of television (programs, selection decisions, time schedules, editing, etc.) and specifically how facts (in this case the 'news') are reported. On Subjectivity: About TV (1978), a 50-minute color/black and white tape, questions TV's distribution of information: how people read, screen and interpret images, how TV's mechanisms function and articulate information. Excerpts from everyday television programs and opinions of TV watchers are combined with reflections on television as a medium.

Muntadas' work invites inquiry into the potential of television and consideration of the intentional/unintentional, visible/invisible influence of television in our daily lives.