

press release

DARA BIRNBAUM

JAN. 17-28
TUES-SAT -1-6

Opening Tuesday Jan. 17 through Jan. 28, The Kitchen Center will present an installation by artist Dara Birnbaum entitled (A) Drift of Politics (Two Women are active, in a space) (A)n installation in film and video/with extras. The installation uses both film and video while playing off of the viewer's placement in the space. Segments from the popular television show Laverne and Shirley provide the central imagery.



"I don't care...I will not let my heart rule my head... I'M going to remain as cold as ICE!..."

Isolated segments of Laverne and Shirley (Tues 8:30 PM CH7) direct the viewer to situations occurring on screen between two women who become animated through the use of basic conventionalized television structural language systems. A video monitor is hung above eye level, much like an information TV at an airport. Standardized shots (with the emphasis on the "two shot") systematically reveal where the action is to be placed on and off screen. The segments become restructured- the sound isolated and alienated (apparent only as character generator subtitling-which flashes on and off the bottom of our television set, as if one were watching a movie in a theater. The dialogue becomes a timing device for the actual scenes taking place- we are forced to switch our attention-reading what was once heard or avoided as sound background (audio displaced becoming visual). The viewer's attention splits between the two dialogues occurring on the screen.

Against a wall (oblique upon entry) are abbreviated matched segments of super 8 footage...altered from the real video recorded time into a filmic slowed-motion time equivalent. Slowed motion equivalents of character generator techniques spell out for us an objective (analytical) dialogue- descriptive solely of the visual action occurring in both the video and film.

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