

SURVIVAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Virtues of Negative Fascination

Friday, February 6, 1987

9:00pm

\$5/TDF/Kitchen Voucher

Contact: Kate Doyle or Scott Macaulay
212/255-5793

On February 6, The Kitchen will present "Virtues of Negative Fascination", a video documenting the 1985/86 performance activities of West Coast artists Survival Research Laboratories.

Consisting of Mark Pauline, Matt Heckert and Eric Werner, Survival Research Laboratories is an active and controversial performance group known for nightmarish outdoor spectacles in which giant mercenary machines and killer robots enact choreographed rituals of destruction. These larger-than-life events combine a sophisticated use of industrial technology, calculated media assaults that generate dust clouds of theoretical paradigms and metaphoric possibilities, and the tension and loss of individual control generated by giant crowd gatherings. Ultimately, their events are frightening and visually kinetic spectacles which both represent and critique the alluring drama of chaos and destruction played out in, and aestheticized by, contemporary media and visual culture.

"Virtues of Negative Fascination" is a documentary of these events by videomakers Jonathan Reiss and Joe Rees. Intercut with performance footage of the machines, which are often thousands of pounds in weight and 30 or 40 feet high, is interview and documentary footage in which the group's working methods are illustrated and explained. The work offers a provocative look at a body of seminal performance work as well as a prelude to an upcoming New York performance by the group. The screening will be introduced by Survival Research Laboratories.

- end -

P R E S S R E L E A S E