

Experimental videos to explore terrorism, surveillance and politics

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"Memory Shredder," an evening of experimental videos about terrorism, surveillance and politics, curated by Darrin Martin, an assistant professor of Expanded Media in the School of Art & Design, will be held at 6 pm Tuesday in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University campus. "Memory Shredder" is co-sponsored by the Department of Expanded Media, Students for Social Change and Alternative Cinema. Six videotapes will be screened that utilize unique approaches to fragmented narrative and documentary strategies to raise questions regarding the nature and history of the present global situation, said Martin. "Power, humor and sexuality are choreographed through experimental uses of appropriation, animation and editing. Fact and fiction are blurred as commentary on the way in which mainstream news media proliferates and manipulates information in relation to tragic daily events often removed from their historic and social context. The works in this program infiltrate and pry upon the truths we think we know and counter them with the stories we cannot comprehend." Works to be screened are as follows: "It's not my memory of it: three recollected documents" 25 minutes, 2003 by Julia Meltzer & David Thorne (The Speculative Archive) "It's not my memory of it" is a videotape about secrecy, memory, and documents. Mobilizing specific historical records as memories, which flash up in moments of danger, the piece addresses the intensification of secrecy practices in the current climate of heightened security in three parts. <http://www.speculativearc...> "State of the Union," 1:43 minutes, 2001 by Bryan Boyce. "Baby Bush meets Tubby-land." Completed in August 2001, this project was initially just a simple comic skewering of George W. Bush and his defense policies, but after September 11th, 2001, it took on a whole new meaning. <http://www.vdb.org> "Hostage: The Bachar Tapes" (English Version) 16:17 minutes, 2001 by Walid Ra'ad and the Atlas Group. In 1999, Bachar collaborated with The Atlas Group (a non-profit cultural research foundation based in Lebanon) to produce 53 videotapes about his captivity. Tapes #17 and #31 are the only two tapes Bachar makes available outside of Lebanon. In the tapes, Bachar addresses the cultural, textual, and sexual aspects of his detention with the Americans. <http://www.vdb.org> "Re: The Operation." 27:30 minutes, 2002 by Paul Chan Letters, notes, and digital snapshots "produced" by the members on their tour of duty become the basis of video portraits that articulate the neuroses and obsessions compelling them toward an infinite war. "Re: The Operation" explores the sexual and philosophical dynamics of war through the lives of the members as they physically engage each other and the "enemy". <http://www.nationalphilis...> "States of the Union: Part 1 Bill Clinton, Master Auctioneer" and "Part 2: George W. Bush, Silent Bush Deadly Bush," 2 and 3 minutes respectively, 1997-2003, by Aaron Valdez. Two short videos that seek out the essential character of our presidents from isolated words and gestures during their respective State of the Union addresses. <http://www.valdezfilm.com>