

Specials > TV ON THE RADIO

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. To complement the exhibition *Are You Ready for TV?*, Kenneth Goldsmith rescues ten works inspired by and taken from TV.

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Curated by Kenneth Goldsmith

Kenneth Goldsmith's writing has been called 'some of the most exhaustive and beautiful collage work yet produced in poetry' by Publishers Weekly. Goldsmith is the author of ten books of poetry, founding editor of the online archive UbuWeb (ubu.com), and the editor of *I'll Be Your Mirror: The Selected Andy Warhol Interviews*, which was the basis for an opera, 'Trans-Warhol,' that premiered in Geneva in March of 2007. An hour-long documentary on his work, *Sucking on Words*, premiered at the British Library in 2007. He teaches writing at The University of Pennsylvania, where he is a senior editor of PennSound, an online poetry archive. He was The Anschutz Distinguished Fellowship in American Studies at Princeton University in 2009-10 and received the Quartz Electronic Music Award in Paris in 2009. A book of critical essays, *Uncreative Writing*, is forthcoming from Columbia University Press, as is an anthology from Northwestern University Press co-edited with Craig Dworkin, *Against Expression: An Anthology of Conceptual Writing*.

More about Goldsmith can be found at:
<http://epc.buffalo.edu/authors/goldsmith/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Goldsmith

TV ON THE RADIO #2

In this show, we treat visual works as if they're audio and see what happens. In most cases, we discover that the sounds emanating from the visual works can stand on their own as great listening experiences. In other works, the visuals and sounds are deliberately 'uninteresting,' tending to highlight the mundane or the insignificant experiences of life, which of course, are equally rich in an inverted sort of way.

01. Summary

This is the second podcast that accompanies MACBA's exhibition *Are You Ready for TV?* In the museum, you can see what happens when the aesthetic of visual artists collides with the world of television. The results are anything but what you'd expect to see on TV, full of surrealistic interventions and disruptions. Or when artists work on television, there is often an embedded critique of the medium, something that questions the very essence of what our eyeballs are glued to every night. As curator Chus Martínez writes about this show: 'This is not an exhibition about television, but one conceived from the place of television. Its aim: to study how the diverse ways of grasping images and the life of concepts contribute to tracing the horizon of our cultural present.'

In our first podcast, we examined what happened when audio artists used the sounds of television as a source for the audio works. The results – demonstrated to us by everyone from John Cage to the Evolution Control Committee – were rich and varied. For this podcast, we actually listen to the soundtracks from the videos in the show themselves. In essence, we treat the visual works as if they're audio and see what happens. In most cases, we discover that the sounds emanating from the visual works can stand on their own as great listening experiences. In other works, the visuals and sounds are deliberately 'uninteresting,' tending to highlight the mundane or the insignificant experiences of life, which of course, are equally rich in an inverted sort of way. Although there are hundreds of works in the actual exhibition, we've selected ten to spotlight here that are particularly varied and interesting and which, taken as a whole, can provide you with the flavor of MACBA's exhibition, *Are You Ready for TV?*.

02. Playlist

The Dean Martin Variety Show: Orson Welles, 1967–68, video, colour, sound
 Chris Burden *The TV Commercials*, 1973–77, video, colour, sound
 Ian Breakwell *Ian Breakwell's Continuous Diary*, 1984, video, colour, sound
 Samuel Beckett *What Where*, 1980, video, colour, sound, Südwestrundfunk (SWR)
 Jef Cornelis *James Lee Byars: The World Question Center*, 1969, single-channel video, b/w, sound
 Glenn Lewis / Marianne Filliou / Robert Filliou / Taki Bluesinger *Teaching and Learning as Performing Arts Part II, Video University*, 1979
 John Berger *Ways of Seeing*, 1972, video, colour, sound
 T. R. Uthco / Ant Farm (Doug Hall, Chip Lord, Doug Michels, Jody Procter) *The Eternal Frame*, 1975, video, b/w and colour, sound
 General Idea *Pilot*, 1977, video, colour, sound
 Adam Curtis *The Trap: What Happened to Our Dream of Freedom*, 2007, video, colour, sound

03. Credits

Produced and mixed by Robert Weisberg. Recorded at WFMU Studios, New Jersey.



[*The Dean Martin Variety Show*, 1967–68]



[Chris Burden *The TV Commercials*, 1973–77]

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