



Contact: Communications Department
212.857.0045 info@icp.org

Ant Farm Presents *Media Burn* and *The Eternal Frame*



Ant Farm

"*Media Burn*," Performance at the Cow Palace, San Francisco, CA, July 4 1975

© John F. Turner

**On view from
September 17
through
November 28, 2004**

Media Preview
Wednesday,
September 15, 9:30 -11am

RSVP:
info@icp.org or
212.857.0045

Cultural commentators and artistic visionaries, the legendary architecture and art collective Ant Farm was one of the most radical and inventive countercultural working groups of the late 1960s and 1970s. From September 17 through November 28, 2004, two of their best known videos will be on view at the International Center of Photography (1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street). This coincides with a retrospective of their work organized by the Berkeley Art Museum, which will be exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia from September 10 through December 12, 2004.

Media Burn and *The Eternal Frame* (both produced in 1975) are classics of early video art. For *Media Burn*, staged on July 4, 1975, members of Ant Farm created a spectacular pseudo-performance event, in which Chip Lord and Curtis Schreier—dressed up like astronauts—drove a customized Cadillac El Dorado through a pyramid of burning televisions. *The Eternal Frame*, conceived in collaboration with the collective T.R. Uthco, is a documentary that centers on their notorious reenactment of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, and questions collective memory and the nature of truth in media.

Ant Farm was a group of experimental architects founded by Lord and Doug Michels in 1968 during the heyday of the San Francisco counter-culture. Their early inflatable structures were suited to a nomadic, communal lifestyle, and—influenced by “alternative” architects like Buckminster Fuller, Archigram, and Superstudio—diverged from the mainstream International style architecture of the 1960s. The members of the group (later also including Curtis Schreier, Douglas Hurr, and Hudson Marquez) were video, performance and installation artists as well, and quickly branched out to all manner of freewheeling spectacles, videos, and media events, in addition to more futuristic projects in architecture.

A fire in their San Francisco studio destroyed a great deal of Ant Farm’s work, causing them to officially disband in 1978. Fortunately, much of their photographic documentation and videotapes survived, making possible this presentation at ICP.