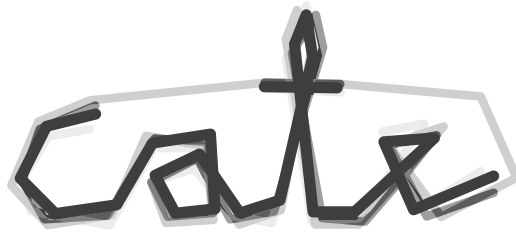


OCT. 30
6 P.M.



Conversations At The Edge - Fall 2014

Anda Korsts's Video Metropolis

1972–82, USA, multiple formats, ca 60 min + discussion

Followed by a roundtable with documentary filmmaker Judy Hoffman, Media Burn Archive Founder Tom Weinberg, and Executive Director Sara Chapman

In the 1970s, Chicago journalist and artist Anda Korsts helped pioneer video as a radical tool for art and activism. A key figure in the guerrilla television movement, she worked on a series of media exposés as part of the national video collective Top Value Television (T VTV) and founded Videopolis, a Chicago organization that put video in the hands of everyday people. She also produced hundreds of tapes, many in collaboration with makers around the country, including a groundbreaking television series called *It's a Living*, inspired by Studs Terkel's *Working*. Filmmaker Judy Hoffman, Media Burn Archive founder Tom Weinberg, and Executive Director Sara Chapman survey Korsts's prolific career and discuss her legacy today.

Presented in collaboration with Media Burn Independent Video Archive.

Anda Korsts (1942, Riga, Latvia–1991, Chicago) was a journalist, artist, and video pioneer based in Chicago. Born to Latvians fleeing the Soviets during World War II, her childhood was spent as a refugee throughout Eastern Europe before the family immigrated to the United States in 1950. She worked as a model and radio reporter, covering the City Hall beat for WBBM, before discovering her life's passion: portable videotape. Seeing in this new technology the potential to open up the television airwaves to the public, Korsts and a few dozen like-minded makers from around the country formed the video collective T VTV to record the behind-the-scenes politics at the 1972 Democratic and Republican national conventions. The result was the first independently produced program to ever air on US television. In Chicago, Korsts founded Videopolis, a collective focused on expanding video production, particularly by women and minorities. The organization also created an archive of the city's people and events, including Chicago's vibrant 1970s Lincoln Avenue storefront theatre scene, and produced several projects that combined video with established forms of art like theater and writing. Her body of work is preserved at Media Burn Independent Video Archive.

program

Group W Intro to T VTV Convention Coverage

(1972, Video, B&W, Sound, 3 mins.)

Off air footage of Group W (aka Westinghouse Broadcasting Company) News Bureau Chief Sid Davis introducing the first national broadcast of T VTV's 1972 convention coverage. It was a landmark event--the first independently produced video ever aired on national television. This footage shows the context in which the program was framed for the national television audience.

Excerpts from T VTV's "World's Largest TV Studio" & "Four More Years"

(1972, Video, B&W, Sound, 10 mins.)

Irreverent documentaries produced by T VTV covering the 1972 Democratic and Republican National Conventions in Miami Beach, Florida. This was the first major news event to be covered by portable video cameras. They first aired nationally on Group W as a single 90 minute combined program, then were later cut into two 60 minute programs focusing on each convention separately.

Anda Korsts and Tom Weinberg on WTTW

(1973, Video, B&W, Sound, 8 mins.)

Marty Robinson interviews T VTV representatives Tom Weinberg and Anda Korsts about the production of "Four More Years" and "World's Largest TV Studio."

Excerpt from "It's a Living"

(1975, Video, B&W, Sound, 2 mins.)

A video documentary inspired by Studs Terkel's book "Working," featuring six different workers talking about their lives and their jobs, in addition to Studs himself.

continued on back »

upcoming

November 6 at 6pm

The X-Ray of Civilization:

Films by Tom Rubnitz, David Wojnarowicz and Tommy Turner

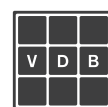
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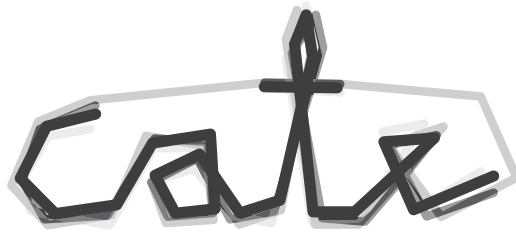
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program continued

Excerpt from "It's a Living: Sally, Terri, Dawn"

(1976, Video, B&W, Sound, 23 mins.)

After the success of the hour-long "It's a Living" program on WTTW, Videopolis was invited to produce six more half hour episodes of the series, each with a more in-depth focus on a specific type of work. Korsts chose to create an episode focused on women, choosing three subjects that represented the spectrum of options available to women in this era of shifting gender roles.

Excerpt from "AC/DC"

(1974, Video, B&W, Sound, 8 mins.)

Segments shot to be part of 1974 production of "AC/DC," a play by Heathcote Williams satirizing the mental health industry. It was produced at the Gill Theatre, directed by Gary Houston, and starred Kelsey Bogart, Greg DeGraf, Carolyn Jackson, J. Pat Miller, and Keith Szarabajka, with a special appearance by Del Close, one of the founders of Chicago improvisational comedy.

Jim Rinnert intro to "Artaud"

(1978, Video, B&W, Sound, 2 mins.)

"Artaud" director Jim Rinnert talks about his interest in Artaud's theory of the "theater of cruelty" and its impact on modern day avant garde theater.

Anda Korsts intro to "Artaud"

(1982, Video, B&W, Sound, 5 mins.)

In a video letter from 1982, Korsts describes her Artaud project, a performance which incorporated four different channels of video while actor J. Pat Miller performed live on stage.

Excerpt from "Artaud"

(1978, Video, B&W, Sound, 5 mins.)

Actor J. Pat Miller performs a reading of Antonin Artaud's "Theatre and the Plague."

Anda Korsts final thoughts on "Artaud"

(1982, Video, B&W, Sound, 1 min.)

In this continuation of the video letter, Korsts sums up her career, explaining why she transitioned from a focus on journalism and documentary to more experimental uses of video and television.

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