

What it is, is figuring out what it is

A project assembled around Ant Farm and T.R. Uthco's video piece *The Eternal Frame* (1975) – an interrogation of the visual architecture of the image – featuring original contributions from five contemporary writers and artists

Curated by Hannah Barton

26/06 – 01/08/15

Preview and Publication Launch: 25/06/15, 6–9pm

Press Release:

Space In Between is delighted to present *What it is, is figuring out what it is*, a project assembled around screenings of Ant Farm and T.R. Uthco's *The Eternal Frame* (1975) alongside original contributions from 5 contemporary writers and artists. This exhibition and accompanying publication has been curated by Hannah Barton and brings together writings, performances, screenings and talks responding to the ideas contained within *The Eternal Frame*.

First screened in 1975, *The Eternal Frame* is a video piece documenting a re-enactment of the John F. Kennedy assassination in Dealey Plaza in a collaboration by two San Francisco-based radical architectural collectives: T.R. Uthco (Diane Andrews Hall, Doug Hall, Jody Procter) and Ant Farm (Chip Lord, Doug Michels, Curtis Schreier).

The work specifically deals with the role the media plays in the creation of (post) modern historical myths. By filming a re-enactment of the iconic Zapruder film – the extraordinary footage which captured the assassination of JFK on celluloid – *The Eternal Frame* not only confronts the processes which facilitate the embedding of memory and perceptions via framed histories, but speaks of the changing ways in which such events are recorded, disseminated and dissected. Resultantly, the piece polyphonically functions as a historic document in its own right. Conceived in response to changing communicative practices brought about by emergent arrays of then novel-technologies, as well as the consequent crystallisation of the relationship between iconography and essential power, the efficacy of Ant Farm and T.R. Uthco's production has only been amplified over time. 40 years after *The Eternal Frame*'s first screening, the social and cultural implications of the splintering of narrative, set in motion with the crack of that fatal bullet in Dealey Plaza, November 22, 1963, are still being negotiated today.

What it is, is figuring out what it is takes this video work as a starting point, with 5 invited artists and writers producing responses to themes, tropes or points of concern gleaned from their viewings of *The Eternal Frame*. These returns will be brought together in a publication, which will be launched at the preview, with a series of accompanying events taking place over the coming weeks. Artists included are David Raymond Conroy, Emily LaBarge, Jessie McLaughlin, Sarah Bayliss and Tim Steer.

The Preview will include a performance and the launch of the publication. Further screening and events schedule will be confirmed.

Notes to Editors:

Ant Farm was founded in San Francisco in 1968 by Chip Lord and Doug Michels and **T.R.Uthco** was founded by Diane Andrews Hall, Doug Hall and Jody Procter. Concerned with addressing a developing mass media, interpreting the persistence of televisuals, and questioning the architectures image production, Ant Farm and T.R. Uthco's prescient output interrogated media epistemologies in a manner which foreshadowed many ongoing contemporary interests. With language - visual or verbal - forming the essential 'structuring structure' of everyday experience, these collectives challenged through detournements, experiments and critiques, the way that information and narratives circulated via mass media technologies during a time of paradigmatic shifts in consumption and production praxes.

Hannah Barton is a writer and researcher based in London. She is currently a doctoral student undertaking a study to reveal by discourse analysis how digital artifacts acquire meaning and become expressive forms of communication. SIB has developed a collaborative relationship with Hannah Barton over the last few years are excited to be presenting her first solo curatorial project at the gallery.

Space In Between (SIB) is an established contemporary art gallery, specialising in commissioning new work from early careers artists. The gallery represents 11 artists whilst working with other artists, writers and curators on a project-by-project basis.

Since opening in 2009 SIB has developed a reputation for exhibiting critically engaging artwork that benefits the development of practitioners and audiences alike.

What it is, is figuring out what it is

Featuring *The Eternal Frame* (1975) by T.R. Uthco and Ant Farm
+ Work by David Raymond Conroy, Emily LaBarge, Jessie McLaughlin,
Sarah Bayliss and Tim Steer

Curated by Hannah Barton

Supported by Arts Council England

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Preview and Publication Launch: 25/06/15, 6–9pm

Gallery open Fridays & Saturdays 12–6pm, or by appointment to
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