

I AM THE MEDIUM: Press Release

Part of a yearlong event series that focuses on art performed on the artist's body, the exhibition event I AM THE MEDIUM features videos by eight prominent contemporary artists, and will take place from October 29th-November 2nd, 9:00 am-5:00 pm across the UCSB campus.

Using their own body as an object, these artists explore the charged themes of identity, ritual, mortality and self-sacrifice. For instance, in *Small Things End, Great Things Endure* (2001), Dutch artist Mathilde ter Heijne uses film stunts to set herself on fire, thus exploring the voyeuristic drama of sacrificial suicide. In another work, the 2001/2003 *Official Welcome*, American artist Andrea Fraser strips while reciting trite and conceited welcome speeches, to unveil the pompous hypocrisy of art institutions. The exhibition also includes works by Franco B., Mona Hatoum, Katarzyna Kozyra, Ana Mendieta, and Gillian Wearing.

I AM THE MEDIUM is installed in eight venues across the UCSB campus. Visitors are invited to walk around freely using one of the provided maps (at each venue or online at www.ihc.ucsb.edu/iamthemedium), or join one of the free guided tours (meet at the information desk in the new Student Resources Building located across from visitor parking lot 22; updated schedule at above website).

The exhibition coincides with *Missed Martyrdoms*, an interdisciplinary symposium looking into the historical resonance of contemporary body art. *Missed Martyrdoms* will be held on November 2nd, from 9:00-12:00, at the McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6020, with presentations by Professors Dorota Dutsch (Classics), Jody Enders (French and Dramatic Art), Richard Hecht (Religious Studies), and Carol Lansing (History). Free and open to the public.

The I AM THE MEDIUM exhibition is curated by Noa Turel (nturel@umail.ucsb.edu) and Mary McGuire (mmcguire@umail.ucsb.edu), two graduate students in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, UCSB. It is part of an event series co-created by Noa Turel, Mary McGuire, and Bethanie Petersen. Faculty advisors: Professors Ann Jensen Adams and Laurie Monahan.

I AM THE MEDIUM is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at UCSB with additional support from the Arts Library, Department of History of Art and Architecture, German Slavic and Semitic Studies, Instructional Development, Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, the Media Arts and Technology Program, the UCSB Multicultural Center, Religious Studies, University Art Museum, University Center, and the Women's Center.

For more information contact Noa Turel (nturel@umail.ucsb.edu) and Mary McGuire (mmcguire@umail.ucsb.edu), or visit the website: www.ihc.ucsb.edu/iamthemedium.