

## Irregular Programming

In Chris Burden's 1972 video *TV Hijack*, February 9, the artist took his interviewer hostage during a live local news program in Irvine,

California. He held a small knife to her throat and threatened her life if the station cut off broadcast transmission. This was

Burden's response to the TV station's rejection of his programming proposals. Burden destroyed the video, but the knife he used

and still photographs of the stunt are included in the exhibition "Broadcast," on view through the 18th of next month at Baltimore's Contemporary Museum. Organized by curator **Irene Hofmann** in conjunction with Independent Curators International, the show explores four decades of artistic interventions—both hostile and comic—in mainstream TV and radio broadcasts.

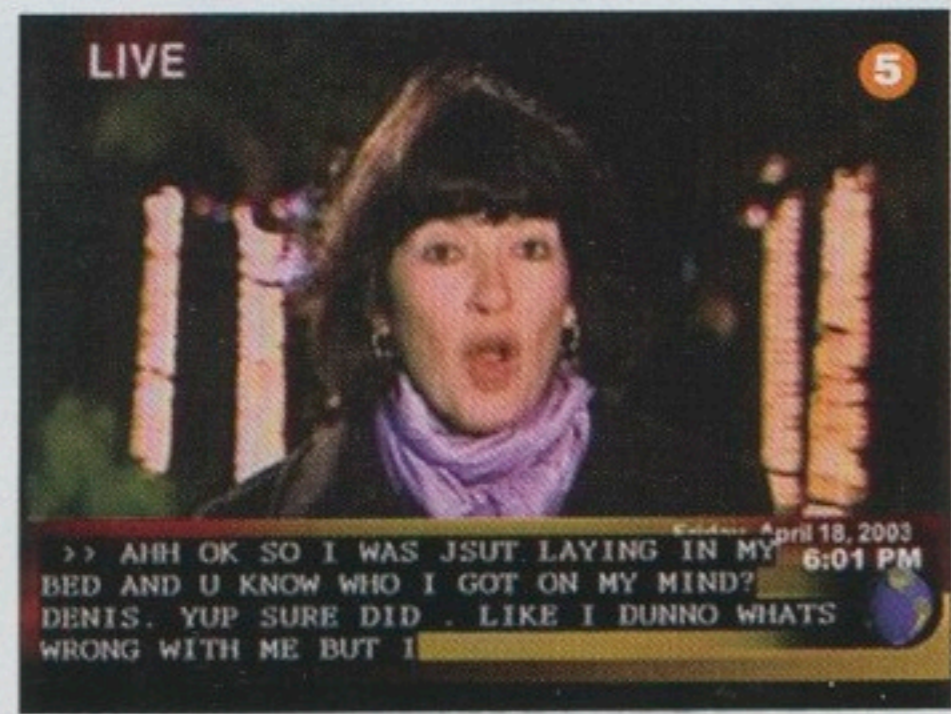
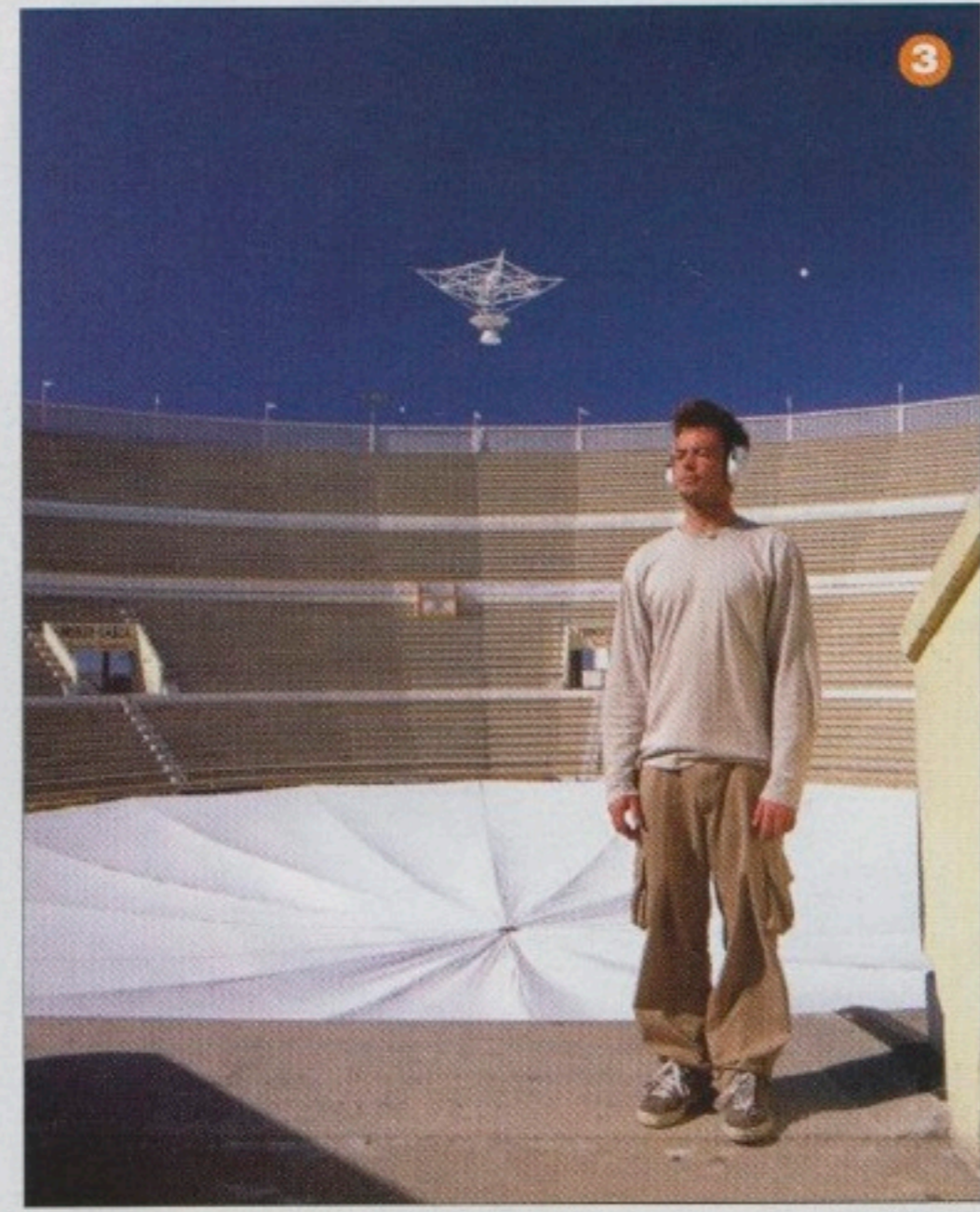
The show features such landmark works as *Four More Years* (1972), TVTV's irreverent documentary of the 1972 Republican Convention, and **Dara Birnbaum's** influential 1994 video *Hostage*, which critiques the media coverage surrounding the 1977 Baader-Meinhof kidnapping of German industrialist **Hanns Martin Schleyer**. In the installation, monitors span the gallery at both ceiling and eye level, playing news footage of the kidnapping.

**Christian Jankowski** turned regularly scheduled programming to his advantage in his video *Telemistica* (1999). He phoned in to live broadcasts on Venice TV stations and asked astrologers and psychics questions about how his work would be received at that year's Biennale.

The New York-based collective neuroTransmitter used pirate radio and public performances to confront media monopolies and Federal Communications Commission policies in *Frequency Allocations* (2005).

Another radio work, **Gregory Green's** *WCBS Radio Caroline: The Voice of the New Free State of Caroline, 89.3 FM*, is a functional single-watt transmission station installed in the gallery for museumgoers to make their own interventions in the daily broadcast.

—Carmela Ciuraru



1. Dara Birnbaum's six-channel video *Hostage*, 1994. 2. Valerie Tevere of neuroTransmitter broadcasts radio from a black backpack in *Frequency Allocations*, 2005. 3. Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle's *Search (En Busqueda)*, 2000, turned a Mexican bullring into a radio telescope. 4. Gregory Green's *WCBS Radio Caroline, The Voice of the New Free State of Caroline, 89.3 FM*. 5. Siebren Versteeg's *CC*, 2003, which replaces news subtitles with a live stream of words from bloggers.