



REFRAMING  
*the*  
FAMILY

A VIDEO PROGRAM  
ORGANIZED BY MICKI MCGEE

JANUARY 17 – MARCH 2, 1991  
ARTISTS SPACE



#### PROGRAM 1

A SPY IN THE HOUSE THAT RUTH BUILT by Vanalyne Green (29 minutes, 1989) describes a nostalgic longing for family and father that resurfaces as a sexualized obsession with baseball. Calling herself "a forty-year-old trying to piece together a family from webbing, the silhouette of a house, the shelter of a stadium and the ephemera of masculinity," Green teases out the meaning of her obsession and discovers a yearning for connection with "a Kentucky hillbilly, turned lifer in the army, otherwise known as my father."

ALWAYS LOVE YOUR MAN by Cara DeVito (20 minutes, 1975) uncovers the ambivalent affection in an abusive relationship. To produce the documentary, DeVito moved into her grandmother's home for one week in 1975, shooting with an open-reel black and white video recorder. (Please note: The technical flaws in this tape are the result of the natural deterioration of magnetic tape in non-archival storage.)

SHUT UP AND LISTEN by Mary Ellen Strom (5 minutes, 1990) This experimental documentary recounts a story of incestuous abuse in a seemingly innocuous kitchen environment.

#### PROGRAM 2

THE WAY TO MY FATHER'S VILLAGE by Richard Fung (38 minutes, 1988) traces Fung's immigrant father on his voyage from China to Trinidad and weaves together the political and personal forces that constructed the lives of both father and son.

BELLADONNA by Beth B and Ida Applebroog (12 minutes, 1989) This mother-daughter collaboration interweaves text fragments from the testimonies of child-murderer and wife-beater Joel Steinberg and Nazi physician Josef Mengele with Sigmund Freud's essay on the masochistic position, "A Child Is Being Beaten."

#### PROGRAM 3

YOJI, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? by Mako Idemitsu (17 minutes, 1987) Part of Idemitsu's on-going investigation of the Japanese family, this tape points to problems that develop when women's ambitions are stifled in the public sphere and fulfilled vicariously through emotionally incestuous relationships with their children.

SCENES FROM THE MICRO-WAR by Sherry Millner (24 minutes, 1985) collapses the skewed logic of military spending onto the domestic unit of the family. Here the family is depicted as literally embattled — struggling to survive in a world where camouflage fashions are the metaphor for the necessity of protecting the beleaguered private sphere from a hostile world.

THE NATURAL ORDER by Cara Mertes (6 minutes, 1991) This work-in-progress employs a pastiche of fifties footage to question the naturalized role of woman as nurturer and homemaker.

#### PROGRAM 4

LET'S NOT PRETEND by Jan Mathew (35 minutes, 1990) Produced for English Channel 4's *OUT! on Tuesday* series, this documentary recounts parliamentary attempts to ban artificial insemination technologies for all but married women and considers the intent and repercussions of such moves.

BORN TO BE SOLD: MARTHA ROSLER READS THE STRANGE CASE OF BABY \$M by Martha Rosler (35 minutes, 1988) Produced with Paper Tiger Television, this tape considers the convergence of new medical technology, centuries old sexism, capital-oriented contract law and fantasies of middle class family life as they converged in the battle over Baby M. Rosler plays the parts of all the principles in the notorious surrogacy case, from a bonneted Baby \$M to "Mr. Sperm."

THE VIDEO PROGRAM SCREENS CONTINUOUSLY DURING GALLERY HOURS:

TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 11-6.

THIS PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON VHS FOR HOME VIEWING.

INQUIRE AT THE FRONT DESK.

SCHEDULE	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11:00 - 12:00	Program 4	Program 1	Program 3	Program 2	Program 1
12:00 - 1:00		Program 4	Program 2	Program 3	Program 2
1:00 - 2:00	Tapes on Request		Program 4	Program 1	Program 3
2:00 - 3:00	Program 1	Tapes on Request		Program 4	Program 2
3:00 - 4:00	Program 2	Program 1	Tapes on Request		Program 4
4:00 - 5:00	Program 3	Program 2	Program 1	Tapes on Request	
5:00 - 6:00	Tapes on Request	Program 3	Program 2	Program 3	

This video program occurs in conjunction with the gallery exhibition *Reframing the Family* organized at Artists Space, January 17–March 2, 1991, by Connie Butler and Micki McGee.

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