



JOHN GIORNO PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEPHAN CRASNEANSCKI FOR VOGUE HOMME INTERNATIONAL

WhiteNoise presents:

JOHN GIORNO
STAR 69:DIAL-A-POEM-RELICS

The Bauer, Campo San Moise
San Marco 1459, Venice

JUNE 2 - JUNE 23 2011

CURATED BY DAVID DORRELL

The exhibition will open with
a performance by John Giorno
at 10pm (June 2nd) in the
Ballroom of the Bauer Hotel.

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In 1968, John Giorno created Dial-A-Poem innovating the use of the telephone as a tool of mass communication. Dial-A-Poem's enormous success at reaching a mass audience via millions of calls to the hotline, gave rise to Dial-A-something industry; from Dial-A-Joke and Dial Sports to phone sex and 900 numbers. Dial-A-Poem ushered in a new era in telecommunications.

In Star 69: Dial-A-Poem-Relics, WhiteNoise brings together both physical elements of Giorno's Dial-A-Poem Actions, including artifacts used during its notorious inclusion in the landmark 'Information' exhibition at MOMA New York in 1970, and audio recordings of works by Giorno, William Burroughs and Patti Smith recorded for Giorno Poetry Systems.

As an artist and innovator John Giorno has challenged artistic orthodoxy at every turn and his early attempts at 'sampling' with synthesizer pioneer ROBERT MOOG and experimental 'cut-ups' (a result of time spent with BRIAN GYSIN and WILLIAM BURROUGHS) helped break new ground in poetry and performance. His willingness to experiment presents us, the audience, with a cultural origami of sorts: Buddhism, networks and systems, Queer Politics, AIDS activism, non-profit business, art and technology - all have been folded by Giorno into a praxis that revolts against the prevailing nihilistic trend in modernism and Post-modernism. John Giorno is an early practitioner of what the artist Matthew Stone calls, 'optimism as cultural rebellion'.

The Victorian writer, William Hazlitt, called poetry: "the universal language which the heart holds with nature and itself." Giorno has both become this language and evolved it. As he noted in a 2002 interview with HANS ULRICH OBRIST: "It occurred to me that poetry was seventy-five years behind painting and sculpture and dance and music." Somewhere along this shining path, JOHN GIORNO - our last warrior-poet - closed the gap.