# CONTENTS

### Introduction 1

Prolegomena to the Study of the Relationships Between Art and TV 1

The Body Split to Travel in Space 3

Art Reflecting Tele-Vision 6

Artists as Prosumers 8

Synopsis by Chapter 10

TV in the Postmedia Scenario 12

#### 1 Historical and Theoretical Frameworks 17

1.1 1920s-1950s 17

The 1920s: The Age of Radio-Television 17

The 1930s-1940s: Utopia or Dystopia? 20

The 1950s: Reality and Its Duplicate 22

The 1950s: Television and Spatialism 24

1.2 1960s-1970s 27

The 1960s: Television as an Extension of Man 27

The 1960s: Situationism and the Society of the Spectacle 29

The 1960s: Early Application of Semiotics to TV 31

The 1960s-1970s: The Birth of Video Art 33

1.3 1970s-1980s 35

The 1970s: The Flow 35

The 1980s: Hyperreality 37

The 1980s: Neo-Television 39

The 1980s: Pastiche and Schizophrenia 41

1.4 1990s-2010s 43

The 1980s-1990s: A Sociological Viewpoint 43

The 1990s: The Body Split 45

The	1990s-	2000s	: Television	and	Post-Fordism 4	17
The	2010s:	From	Convergenc	e to	Circulationism	49

# 2 TV as a Mirror: Manipulations and Re-Presentations 53

2.1 Artists Familiarize with the New Mass Medium 53

Early Acts of Manumission of the TV Set 53

The Rise of Artists Television: Germany 56

The Rise of Artists Television: United States 58

Nam June Paik's Video-Synthesizer and TV Programs 60

2.2 Performance, CCTV, and the Narcissistic Impulse 63

The First Exhibition of Television Art 63

Performing CCTV 66

Video as a Definition of the Self 69

The Audience Is the Product: Richard Serra 71

2.3 The TV Set and Its Double 73

TV as a Living Organism 73

Interruptions: The TV Set Literalized 76

Commercials and Zapping 78

Two Cases of Metatelevision 82

2.4 Tele-Pictures 84

The Allegorical Impulse of the Pictures Generation 84

Feminist Approaches to Media Fantasies 87

The Video as a Poststructuralist Visual Essay 89

Function Is to Perform Fiction 92

## 3 Breaking News: Television Between Art and Activism 95

3.1 Guerrilla Television 95

The Rise of the Guerrilla Television Movement 95

The Theories Behind Guerrilla Television 97

Guerrilla Television and the 1960s Counterculture 100

The Professionalization of Guerrilla Television 103

3.2 Community Television 105

Community Television: Videofreex's Lanesville TV 105

The Legacy of Guerrilla Television: PTTV 107

The Personal Is Political: AIDS TV 109

Grassroots Television 111

3.3 Mediated War 113

John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "Bed-In for Peace" 113

War and Remoteness 115

From the Gulf War to the War on Terror 117

The Electronic War 119

3.4 Break the News 124

The First Global TV News Event: The JFK Assassination 124

The News Anchor 126

The Domestication of Fear: Johan Grimonprez 130

Live on BBC: The Yes Men 132

#### 4 Artists as Media Stars 135

4.1 The Artist as a TV Personality 135

The Surrealist Persona: Salvador Dalí 135

Television Happening: John Cage 138

A Shy Apathetic Star: Andy Warhol 140

The Artist Diva: Charlotte Moorman and Cindy Sherman 142

4.2 The Artist as Intruder 146

Violence and Disclosure: Chris Burden 146

Space Invaders 148

Art, TV, and Mysticism: Christian Jankowski 150

The Bad Girl: Tracey Emin 155

4.3 Representations of Art and Artists in TV 157

The Loss of the Aura: TV Shows About Art 157

Stereotypes Exposed: From General Idea to the Internet 160

Downtown Television 163

The East Village Heterotopia: Glenn O'Brien's TV Party 166

4.4 Andy Warhol's TV Programs 169

The "Superstar" as a Dysfunctional Replica 169

From Pop to Fashion (1979-80) 171

Andy Warhol's T.V. (1980-83) 175

Andy Warhol's Fifteen Minutes (1986-87) 177

## 5 Disentertainment: Music, Kids, Fun, and Soap Operas 181

5.1 The Art of the Music Video 181

Birth and Evolution of the Music Video 181

Music Videos Directed by Visual Artists 183

Artistic Parodies and Appropriations of the Music Video 185

Music Videos by Visual Artists/Musicians 189

5.2 Kids Shows and the Aesthetic of Failure 191

The Abused Child: Mike Kelley 191

Dysfunctional Kids 195

The Troubled Girl: Alex Bag 198

Surreal Children's Shows and Cartoons 201

5.3 Comic Personae 204

Absurdist Humor: Ernie Kovacs 204

Satire and Argentinean Conceptualism 206

Fun TV: New Wave Vaudeville at Club 57 209

The Inadequate Spectator: Michael Smith 212

5.4 The Semiotics of the Soap Opera 215

Infiltrating the Soap Opera 215

The Double on the Screen 217

A Postcolonial View: Bruce and Norman Yonemoto 220

Identity and the Telenovela: Phil Collins 223

## 6 The Age of Prosumers: Reality TV and the Internet 227

6.1 Processing Reality TV 227

Early Artistic Responses to Reality TV 227

Emotions for Sale: Artists' Reality Shows 229

CONTENTS xi

Italian Love Meetings: From Pasolini to Vezzoli 233
Reality TV and the Collective Unconscious: Gillian Wearing 236

6.2 Performing Selves 239

Imitation of Life: The Truman Effect 239

Video Performance as Identity Research Practice 242

The Schizophrenic Prosumer: Ryan Trecartin 244

Identity Politics and the Melodrama: Kalup Linzy 249

6.3 Art After Reality TV 254

TV and Participatory Art 254

Talent Shows for Artists 257

Live from the Art World 261

Video Art and Edutainment 264

6.4 Remediation, Rematerialization, Abstraction 267

Artists' TV Series, Sharing Economy, and Biopower 267

TV, Accelerationism, and EDM 270

The TV Stage Abandoned 273

Television and Abstraction 276

Chronology of Exhibitions on Art and Television 281
Bibliography 285
Works Cited 311
List of Figures 333
Acknowledgments 339
Index 342