

# *the*ACTIVE *space*



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Brooklyn, NEW YORK—The Active Space presents its first documentary screening by Ine Poppe and Sam Nemeth entitled “THEM F\*CKIN’ ROBOTS” in cooperation with Eyebeam Art and Technology Center on March 23, 2012.

“**THEM F\*CKIN’ ROBOTS**” is a documentary about Norman White, one of the most influential media artists in his field. He produced humorous and beautiful work, but also trained hundreds of artists at the Ontario College of Art and Design to make their own, hands-on media art from 1976 onwards. This is one of the reasons a vast number of acclaimed media artists come from Canada. However, media-art does not cover the realm of White’s work: he produced a large oeuvre, from paintings to light murals to interactive robotics. Ine Poppe and Sam Nemeth filmed White and his students: they visited him in his huge watermill in Ontario and followed him and his students at work.

It took Poppe and Nemeth 5 years to finish Them F\*ckin’ Robots. This had several reasons: it was hard to obtain material of the early works of White (video was still a ‘new’ medium) but moreover was it hard to fund a film about media art. In the contemporary cultural climate in the Netherlands no art- or film fund dared to take the risk of financing a documentary about media art, also because the film is about a ‘foreign’ artist. This reflects thematically in the film. The question whether or not media art has a place in the mainstream art world is addressed as well as why it took Norman White such a long time -he started in the 1960-ies with electronic art- to get recognition. The film contains material from the 70-ies, 80-ies, 90-ies, 00-ies and original footage of the of the White family shot in the 40-ies,50-ies and 60-ies.

The screening of “THEM F\*CKIN’ ROBOTS” takes place March 23, 2012, from 7-10 PM. Email [ashley@566johnsonave.com](mailto:ashley@566johnsonave.com).

THEM F\*CKIN’ ROBOTS  
March 23, 2012  
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