"THE PLASTIC SELF" *Curated by Marianna Ellenberg*
as part of the exhibtion "On the Collective for Living Cinema"
at ORCHARD GALLERY, www.orchard47.org, APRIL 1-29, 2007
SATURDAY April 14, 2007, 8PM-10PM, FREE

This video program examines how the codes of advertising, televisual language and chemical substances impact our desiring bodies and selves. Medical terminology and popular metaphor replace each other as plastic, corporeal and literary selves begin to merge. These artists explore the territories of the psyche, economies of desire and the side effects of the Real—all with a yummy aftertaste!

THE RELAXED WIFE, 13 min, On Film Inc, 1957, Prelinger Internet Archive
A psycho-pharmaceutical industrial treat—a wife coaxes her husband into trying an early form of anti-anxiety medication. A haunting precursor to the Prozac Era.

Shana Moulton **ELECTRIC BLANKET TEMPLE ALTER** (5 min, Netherlands,/US 2005)
Want to improve your moods? Enrich your energy flow? This video sent my chi upwards and outwards! A hilarious riff on the American self-help obsession. A bevy of surreal outfits, dancing synapses and electric charges highlite this otherworldly trip. (-M Ellenberg 2007)

Oriana Fox **THE EMBODIMENT WORKOUT** (6 min, US/UK,2005)
I was drawn to the exercise video genre because of the endless repetition involved in following along to the point of mastery, the sense of accomplishment provided by this mastery, the physical exertion, and the endorphin rush of a good workout. (- O Fox, 2005)

Helki Frantzen **"1,2,3"** (2 min, US, 2007)
Tick Tock. Tick Tock. A furry parka cradles in the womb. Insomnia +Ambien = stranger than wonderland.

A.P. Komen and Karen Murphy **PLAY ON**, (5 min, Netherlands, 2005)
+ Excerpts from WWW.**SINCERE-HONEST.COM**, (4 min, Netherlands, 2005)

A serenade sung in fragments by nine young men to their unseen suitors. Each protagonist sings along to the 1980's hit 'Eternal Flame' by the all-girl band The Bangles. These healthy, sun tanned men sing about their undying love with varying degrees of ability and credibility. We are not shown to whom this 'boy band' are declaring their affections, however at the end of the song one of the men comments that he hopes people at home will see him, giving an enthusiastic thumbs up to Thailand and all it has to offer.

This video was a follow up to the project 'Sincere & Honest', in which six Thai women expressed their desire to find a Western man, proclaiming that Western men were more responsible, sincere and honest than their Thai counterparts. (www.sincere-honest.com)

Marianna Ellenberg **WELCOME TO NORMAL** (2007, US, 7 min)
You CAN get better! An Exquisite Corpse compendium of hypnotic sounds, symptoms and neurological side effects. Instructional video meets psychedelic — treatment is just around the corner!

Steve Reinke **ASK THE INSECTS** (8 min, Canada, 2005)
Nine micro-essays on animation and death--with many appearances including Goethe, Pink Floyd and Bambi--leads to a final encounter and introduction. (–Video Data Bank catalogue)

Elisabeth Subrin, **SWALLOW** (28 min, US, 1995)
Based on accounts of girlhood anorexia, Swallow unravels the masked and shifting symptoms that define clinical depression. With a densely layered soundtrack, humorous and painful scenes of potential psychological breakdown reveal a critical loss of meaning, and the failure to diagnose mental illness. (–Video Data Bank catalogue)

REMEMBER: YOU ARE BETTER! FEEL IT! BELIEVE IT!

**********SPECIAL THANKS**********
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