

# JEREMY SHAW

## DMT

Saturday October 9, 2pm: Lecture on Artist's work by  
Clint Burnham followed by a discussion with Jeremy Shaw

Generous assistance for production of *DMT*  
provided by Bob Rennie, Rennie Management, Vancouver.

SEPT 16 – OCT 24, 2004

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

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## DMT, 2004

eight monitor DVD installation

In this video installation we watch the artist and his friends high on DMT – the synthetic hallucinogen dimethyltryptamine – and read their recollections in subtitles. Ambient sounds of music, chosen by each subject, permeate the intense space. The relatively short high of this drug is characterized by a profound out of body, otherworldly experience in which supernatural creatures often appear. Its natural form, Ayahuasca, is used as a spiritual device by shamans in South America for coming of age rituals. Unlike such social rituals, the circle of people in this clinical room are insular and unable to communicate their experience to each other or to us. At times euphoric, at other times nightmarish, their “trips” are ultimately indescribable. Language

seems to fail in these fragmented stories told in everyday words. Distinctions between the banal and extraordinary become blurred. This piece points to the limits of language and the imagination, and the difficulties of social communication. Shot in real time with a static camera focused on each subject’s face, the artist’s generic style makes reference to the conventions of performance art, documentary and reality TV.

DMT relates to the artist's previous works that also interpret youth subcultures. His observations, often based on personal involvements in these scenes, question social agency in the public realm. Jeremy Shaw (aka March 21) is a recent graduate of Emily Carr College of Art and Design. He has exhibited across Canada and abroad. He is also an electronic musician under the name Circlesquare, with an extensive discography.