



## Juliet and Romeo

**An event proposal for Knokke designed by John Latham**

Juliet and Romeo is a one hour long event first devised and presented by John Latham, and now with the cooperation of Joffrey Shaw utilising inflatable elements.

The piece is basically a material action between two figures (one male painted blue and one female painted red) who are in the beginning completely covered with printed paper structures in which are secreted inflatable and other devices.

Then follows a silent argument sequence between the two figures only in terms of material action and phenomena (e.g. inflation of balloons and tubing, squirting of fluids and smoke, setting off of electrical sound and light devices, tearing, pulling, etc), until finally the two figures are stripped of their apparatus costumes.

This event begins and ends with the film « Speak » by John Latham.

# experimental mmmt 4

AN EVENT PROPOSAL DESIGNED BY JOHN LATHAM

Re: The wordless Play Juliet and Romeo

27/12 at midnight

A long-existing question can be put in the words "what is the real context in which pictures (e.g. visual selection) and word-pictures (coded selection) operate?" Since he started to use books as material for pictures, John Latham has been in possession of a very wide angled instrument for understanding it.

He has become known as a bookburner during the 15 years that have elapsed, but he says now that the burning question is one of the structure of events.

Certain new conceptual tools are able to do what others couldn't, and this one throws a very interesting light on what is not understood by other sets of ideas.

The play is an interlude in an unending film. The figures start as blind libraries in the film screen, made up of a hotch-potch of disordered notions. In working out a relationship they enact a chain of performances that is found underlying much human behaviour that is never seen in visual translation.

The play has been worked up on a number of occasions, very successfully during the DIAS in London in September 1966. This performance contains a new element, of much dramatic value, with the aid of Jeffrey Shaw of the Moviemovie. The acting is by Phil Bloom and Sean Wellesley-Miller.

The film is not "speak" but "skoobfilm", made from a relief composed of books that is now in the Tate Gallery, London (made 1960).