LABORATORIO DEA
Lunedì 29 ottobre
ore 14.30-16.30
Palazzo Vendramin, I piano, sala A

JENNIFER DEGER
(Australian National University)
terrà una conferenza su:

Video as Ritual:
experiments in art and film from Arnhem Land

Abstract
Anthropologist and filmmaker Jennifer Deger will screen and discuss collaborative projects with Miyarrka Media, including the film Manapanmirr, in Christmas Spirit and the multi-channel installation Christmas Birrimbirr. These projects explore the potential of film to produce the effects of ritual. Both projects focus on Christmas as a Yolngu ritual to re-vitalise relations with the dead. Yolngu Christmas rituals start in October when the first wolma thunder clouds form, heralding the coming wet season. As their distant rumbling triggers memories of lost loved ones, quiet tears start to flow. So begins a season in which stories brought by missionaries in the mid-20th century provide the basis for celebrating the cycling transformations of life, death and rebirth — and for claiming the enduring place of the ancestral in the contemporary world. Manapanmirr is a Yolngu expression that refers to a state of being joined or brought together. The film and exhibition explore this theme in form, content and effect. Deger will describe how what began as an experiment with using digital media to “connect cultures through feeling” becomes — through the very processes of image-making and viewing — a catalyst for vision, innovation and connection for Yolngu themselves.

Nota biografica
Jennifer Deger has been working on practice-based media research with Aboriginal people in Australia’s northeast Arnhem Land since the early 1990s. Together with Paul Gurrumuruwuy, Fiona Yangathu and video artist David Mackenzie, she is a founding member of Miyarrka Media, a collective of indigenous and non-indigenous filmmakers/performers/artists. Current Miyarrka Media projects include Gapuwiyak Calling (a mobile phone-film/performance project) and Christmas Birrimbirr, a multi-media installation, first exhibited in Darwin in December 2011 in Darwin. In 2009 Deger curated the exhibition interventions: experiments between art and ethnography at the Macquarie University Art Gallery; her experimental video ”My Red Yolngu Heart” was commissioned for the re-opening of the University of Queensland Anthropology Museum in August 2012. Deger has published widely on indigenous aesthetics, art and film, including her book Shimmering Screens: Making Media in an Aboriginal Community (University of Minnesota Press, 2006). She was recently awarded a four year Australian Research Council Future Fellowship for the project Digital Relations: New Media in Arnhem Land at the Australian National University.