Hippies, Yippies, and Portapaks: counterculture in early video art

Hippies and their more actively political counterpart, the Yippies, epitomise the counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s. Opposition to authoritarian structures, protest against the Vietnam War, the search for alternative ways of living, commitment to environmental protection, and the espousal of the sexual revolution were countercultural issues that also pervaded much of the art and popular culture of the time, especially contemporary artists’ work with video. The ZKM archives contain extensive holdings from this era and we are going to work towards completing their data base entries for not yet fully catalogued video recordings by researching information about events, people, places, and dates, as well as preparing descriptive texts.