

wexner center
for the arts

June 17, 1999

Steina and Woody Vasulka
via fax # 505-473-0614

Dear Steina and Woody,

Steve and I very much appreciate your generous offer to let us preserve the tapes. Here is a list of what appear to be one of a kind. As we go through other 3/4's we may find that we need to use one of your dubs of other works but for now these are the titles we need.

The list we had from John Minkowsky organized tape titles according to box #.

Box 1

Heimskringla! (90 min.) Parts 1 & 2
on two 3/4" tapes

Tom O'Horgan, Richard Feliciano, David
Dowe, and John Graham

Box 2

Studies, Plastic in Hot Liquid 1970
Linearity

B. Tatti, William Gwin, and Brice Howard
Richard Feliciano

Box 3

Verlaine Trilogy
ABC; Green's Pizaz

Don Hallock
Loren Sears; B. Stoffer, P. Green

Box 4

Flour Arrangement
Violence

Bill Allen and Bruce Nauman
Brice Howard and Richard Feliciano

Box 5

Jazz First Year
Growth (A Memory of Childhood)

William Gwin, B. Tatti, and Brice Howard

Please use PFA's FedEx number (#0941-0843-8) to send the tapes to Steve Seid at

Pacific Film Archive
2621 Durant
Berkeley, Ca 94720
(510) 642-5253

Thank you so much for allowing us to preserve these tapes. We agree to send you a Betacam SP copy of each of the tapes that we preserve. We will be using BAVC for the 3/4" preservation. I am sending you an information sheet on BAVC's preservation services. If you have any concerns about the process they use to clean and transfer the tapes, please call me at 614-292-7617 or Steve at 510-642-5253.

Both of us are very excited about this project and about looking at the work. Our great hope is to be able to tour a selection of tapes from NCET. So few people today are familiar with these works. Your willingness to loan us the tapes for preservation will greatly help our project so that these works reach a wider audience.

We are ready to begin the preservation process as soon as you send the tapes. Steve and I would also be interested in any of your favorite tapes that you remember from NCET. We can send you a list of the works we are looking to preserve and see if we have overlooked any tapes that you remember as being significant.

Thanks again and I will talk to you soon.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Troy".

Maria Troy
Associate Curator, Media Arts

V I D E O P R E S E R V A T I O N



BAVC, with over 20 years of experience providing state-of-the-art technical facilities to the media arts field, has established a professionally equipped nonprofit preservation unit, where trained technicians transfer archival material to current video formats. BAVC offers a national service for high-quality, inexpensive cleaning and transferring services to museums and nonprofit institutions as well as artists. In 1994, BAVC's work in developing video preservation was recognized with a prestigious Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

C L E A N I N G M E T H O D

The common pitfall encountered when transferring old tapes is that the tapes do not play back correctly. Accounts of 1/2" open-reel transfers attempted during the early and mid-1980's tell a story of repeated video head clogging and tapes grinding to a halt in the tape player. This damaged both the tape and the tape machine. Producers did not want their tapes subjected to this torture, and many tape machines were labeled "dead" or "unusable."

Tape manufacturers universally agree that this problem is due to poor tape design and environmental contamination. Cleaning methods, however, are not agreed upon. Across the country there are technicians baking tapes, running them through solvents and hand cleaning them. None of these methods offer the consistent results BAVC's clients expect. Many of them are held as proprietary methods by their developers.

BAVC researched tape-cleaning methods in the computer industry. Through contacts at Hewlett Packard and a number of other Silicon Valley companies, BAVC was directed to cleaning methods and machines that have been used successfully in the computer industry for over twenty years.

On these custom-built, precisely calibrated cleaning stations tapes are guided through a path of slotted grids and cloth tape specifically designed for laboratory-quality cleaning. The tape passes through a vacuum chamber where environmental contaminants and loose residue are removed by air pressure. These machines, housed at BAVC, also assure correct tension and repacking on the cleaned tape.

As staff members of a nonprofit media arts center, BAVC engineers and technicians are sensitive to experimental video. BAVC staff understands video, computers and tape. This understanding comes from their experience in a variety of fields, BAVC-funded training, and industry contacts; it comes from years of day-to-day troubleshooting and dedication to the thousands of clients we serve. BAVC brings all of these resources to providing the very best preservation services to the field.

B A V C ' S S E R V I C E S

BAVC offers the following archiving services:

- Client viewing of tape before transfer
- Transfer to VHS, SVHS, 3/4," 3/4" SP, 1," Betacam SP & Digital Betacam
- Documentation of signal imperfections on the original tape
- Consultation with client if original tape is found to be damaged
- Cleaning
- Image correction
- Audio correction
- Beginning and ending titles

S A M P L E C L I E N T S

*Centre Georges Pompidou
Downtown Community Television
Electronic Arts Intermix
Intermedia Arts
Margaret Jenkins Dance Company
Joan Jonas
Mary Lucier
Minnesota Historical Society
Pacific Film Archive
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
San Francisco Performing Arts Library
and Museum
San Francisco Public Library
Video Data Bank
Visual Studies Workshop
Vito Acconci
William Wegman*

