

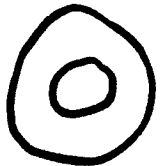
## Pyroglyphs \_ 1994

In close collaboration with Tom Joyce

In 1994 Steina spent long hours with blacksmith Tom Joyce video taping the process of building an iron gate. "I found iron gates a little too concrete, so I closed in on the intense and violent nature of materials being manipulated by torches, files and anvils - the rapid flicker of flames." The initial inspiration for Pyroglyphs was the ancient art of blacksmithing, but soon became a musical treatise of hammering and welding, blowtorches and metal saws. Those images and the sounds they made in turn inspired Tom to torch wood, paper, metal and liquids specifically for the camera. The processed sounds, became a guide for arranging the work into a composition. The images are often slowed down, backwards or upside down.

### Description:

In Pyroglyphs, fifteen (eighteen) monitors are arranged in a circle on the floor facing up [and inward] at a 30 degree angle. The viewer stands outside this circle looking in.



Three channels of video program recorded on laser disk players provide one video and two audio sources each routed to a bank of video monitors [with internal speakers] (see a drawing for bank assignments). The Laser Disk Players are aligned for a synchronous playback by a synchronizer. Each player at the end of its twenty minute cycle automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a continuous performance.

### Synchronizer:

The Laser Disk Synchronizer used by the Vasulkas is custom build and interfaces with Pioneer Industrial Laser Disk Players (2200 to 8000 series) It is not interchangeable with other manufacturers of Laser Disk Players. [Other brands (Sony, Phillips) require a different (commercially available) synchronizing device.]

and Synchronizer. If problem persists notify Steina by phone, fax or e-mail.

**Shut down:**

Turn power off the Monitors, Disk players and Synchronizer

**Maintenance:**

The monitor screens need to be cleaned with a soft cloth at least once a week

**Power requirement (depending on equipment used):**

Video monitors:	Sony PVM 1910	120 watts
Stereo Amplifiers:	Technics/Sony	150 watts
Video Disk Players:	Pioneer 2200	70 watts
	Pioneer 8000	100 watts
Synchronizer:	Gritzo 1	40 watts

Outside USA, a Power Transformer 220 to 110, 1000w

**Shipping information:**

**Number of crates: 1**

3 program disks, 3 Disk players, 3 Stereo Amps, 1 Sync Box, AC box, all Cables.

The equipment except the monitors and speakers should be located outside the exhibition space (in a small adjacent tech area)

The fifteen (eighteen) monitors must be matching in size and manufacture. They are placed on the floor in a circle facing inward without spacing in between, tilted ca 30 degrees upwards. Some monitor models are designed to make this easy, with others, custom built wedges must be built to put under the monitors to tilt them upwards from the floor. These wedges must be custom made (15 pairs) to the size and shape of the monitors.

Place a circular rug (provided with other installation equipment) in the middle of the room. The rug provides a convenient way to establish a center around which the monitors can be placed in an approximate circle. Alternate method is to draw an erasable circle on the floor. First connect the players to monitors (see drawings). [Channel one connects to the first on the line skips the next two, connecting to the fourth, seventh etc. Channel two connecting to the second, fifth, eighth, etc. and channel three to the third, sixth, ninth, etc. monitor in the circle]. The 75 ohm terminators must be switched to *open* except for the last monitor on each chain. If the monitor speakers are of very good quality, the audio can be chained the same way as the video. (six discreet audio channels), so the sound emanates from each monitor in equal intensity.

After verifying that all audio and video cabling is working, lift the front of each monitor one by one ca 30 degrees up to place the pre-fabricated wedges underneath. Now push the monitors toward the middle, an equal distance from the edge of the rug, so that the front

edges of the monitors touch. Once the circle is perfect, all the cables should be tucked under the monitors and tied down. Finally, remove the rug or erase the drawn circle.

**Ideal audio wiring:**

Connect the two stereo cables from each player to the three amplifiers, and the six speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be hung on the walls at equal distances.

**Sound and image alignment (tuning):**

**Video:**

**Contrast: maximum**

**Brightness: half way between minimum and the middle\***

**Sound:**

**Treble: normal**

**Base: maximum**

\*The basic rule here is to set up the proper and deep color black as a reference to the maximum contrast and brightness. With that the other components (hue, color saturation) can be assigned. But in final the persons installing the environment must use their aesthetic judgment as to the proper settings and visual impact of the exhibit.

**Daily Operations:**

**Start up:**

**Power up the Monitors, Disk players and synchronizer**

**Wait a short while to verify that the installation is starting synchronously. If not, turn power off and on again for the Players**

The space:

Minimal Active Space (see drawing/floor plan):

?? meters by ?? meters by 3.5 meters high

?? feet by ?? feet by 12 feet high

The major consideration of space is the total avoidance of ambient light. The space should be painted in non-reflective black and no light source other than the one that emanates from monitors themselves should exist. The entrance must be well isolated for light and sound. Most ideal is a double trap door with sound insulating material (see drawing).

At the entrance to the installation these credits should appear:  
"Pyroglyphs by Steina in close collaboration with Tom Joyce"

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Technical notes for installing, setting up, operating and maintaining the exhibit

Itemized Equipment List for Pyroglyphs:

- 15 or 18 matching Video Monitors
- 3 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series
- 3 Program Video Laser Disks NTSC, Color
- 1 Three Channel Synchronizer
- 3 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (6 audio channels)
- 6 Speakers (Internal speakers of superior quality may be used).
- 6 Speakers Stands or Wall Mounts
- 15 Video Cables
- 3 Pairs of Stereo Cables
- 4 Speaker Cables
- 22 Power Outlets