

▶ VASULKA VALHALLA

◁ ALFRED B.

SANTA FE

TOKYO

FAX 1/505/473 0614 ^{Bir A Baum}

TEL 81/3/3478 1957

FAX 3407 8753
c/o WORKSHOP

DEAR WOODY & STEINA —

BARBARA LONDON DELIVERED YOUR NOTE AMIDST VIDEO FESTIVAL MADNESS. LUCKILY, I AM ONLY TANGENTIALLY INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S "FAMILY REUNION," BUT IT'S BEEN GOOD SEEING GARY HILL AND CO. AGAIN.*

I MYSELF HAVE STERERD LARGELY AWAY FROM VIDEO IN RECENT YEARS, EXCEPT FOR SOME COLLABORATIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH KYOTO PERFORMANCE GROUP "DUMB TYPE," AND HAVE CONCENTRATED MORE ON WRITING AND TRANSLATION. HOWEVER I MAYBE WORKING WITH JEFFREY SNOW THIS YEAR AND AM STARTING A VIDEO DISK "INTERACTIVE NOVEL" PROJECT TOGETHER WITH PETER CALLUS (SEEMS COLLABORATION IS MY ELEMENT),

HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH YOU BOTH, I'M SURE YOU'RE UP TO SOME MISCHIEF.

~~LONGER COMMUNICATION~~ WILL FOLLOW WHEN I GET THAT FABLED "SPARE MOMENT," BUT FOR NOW, THE INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED =

SABURO TESHIGAWARA / COMPANIE KARAS
1-11-15 HIROO, ASAHI HIROO MANSION 304
SHIBUYA, TOKYO 150

TEL 81/3/3440 3163
FAX 3440 3651

AND MYSELF =

3-34-2 JINGUMAE, K.I. FLAT 302
SHIBUYA, TOKYO 150

(WILL HAVE FAX AT ABOVE TEL NO. 3478 1957 WITHIN THE WEEK)

BEST TO YOU BOTH —

(A)

* GARY'S ASSISTANT, MARK, JUST GAVE ME A WONDERFUL PHOTO HE TOOK OF WOODY

THE VASULKAS INC.
471-7181 FAX:473-0614
ROUTE 6 BOX 100
SANTA FE NM 87501

To: Alfred Birnbaum
3-34-2 Jingumae, K.I. Flat 302
Shibuya, Tokyo 150

From: Vasulka Valhalla
Rt6, Box 100, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
Tel: (505) 471-7181
Fax: (505) 473-0614

Dear Alfred,

There is a special mission reserved for you here after all... (should you accept):

We are in process of establishing the certain historical data concerning early video tools for a pending show at Ars Electronica this year under a preliminary title "Pioneers of Electronic Art" with a subtitle "The tribe that worshiped electricity" curated by us. There is some dispute in the literature about chronology of the Paik/Abe early instruments. We need a sciento-historical mind to probe this directly and the choice has fallen on you!

You are to get in touch with Abe to extract the most authentic data via an interview or by other means (securing his archive etc.). This all again is to establish correct personal data, correct chronology and authenticity of the sequence, functionality and the nomenclature of the video tools, conceived by him in a non-industrial context (ignore this dilemma) as they related to video art making of the period (1965-1975).

We must of course honor all the rules of preservation of intellectual properties of all participatnts, this applies to your prospective work as well, we would honor your credits of research and if you decide that these efforts are well in excess, we would concider to compensation.

P.S. Are there others in Japan with similar credits in video tool building?

Love to you from us both, Woody and Steina

In Santa Fe, February 9, 1992

ALFRED BIRNBAUM
3-34-2-302 Jingumae
Shibuya, Tokyo 150
TEL/FAX 81 3 34781957

Vasulka Valhalla
Route 6, Box 100
Santa Fe, NM 87501

FAX 1 505 4730614

Dear Woody and Steina,

Thanx for the fax. Unfortunately I no longer "worship electricity"—if indeed I ever really did—and hence find myself estranged from "the tribe". I really only participated in Fujiko's festival against my own better judgement out of a somewhat anachronistic sense of duty (*giri*) toward Stefaan Decostere, with whom I participated in a spoken-text "performance" here this past Sunday.

Similarly, I feel the pull of a great tide of friendship—if falling quite short of your intellectual orbit—toward you both. Perhaps I am feeling defeatist of late, or maybe it's just a case of Tokyo overwork, but I'm simply so short of time and so far behind on translations and writing that I cannot sanely consider mounting the *cheval* you send my way. I am honored that you think of me, but . . . there must be someone else, some noble documentarian.

I will pass the quest on to another knight errant if you so wish. Please believe, it saddens me to let you both down.

All my best,



12 February 1992