

MEDIA ART SERVICES

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Oct 11

Woody,

I thank you for your wonderful catalog. I wish I had seen the exhibition. Is there anyone with enough vision and intelligence to bring it to the US?? Probably not. Anyway, thank you for doing it and having this history written down

I talked with Bob Riley about your exhibition and he was interested in a possible portrait by me of you both for the exhibition, which should be fun. I hope that I can work things out with the French so that we can actually shoot in Paris. Do you know if you will be installing things before the 5th, or will be doing it without you? I will be in Paris from the 25th on, so maybe we could figure out something interesting to do. I will be at Rosanna Albertini's place - 42 77 16 65.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

December 23, 1993

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Woody,

Very good to talk to you. I wish we could see each other sooner than April. I am sending what I use for my video tapes, but perhaps they are not descriptive enough for this purpose. Let me know what you think.

I'll think about other works that might go with these.

Love to Steina and to you from both of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PK' or similar initials, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TV's vibrating field's shaken our arts to pieces. No use to pick them up. Get with it: *Someday artists will work with capacitors, resistors & semiconductors as they work today with brushes, violins and junk.*

- Paik & Cage

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**PROPOSAL**

**THE VASULKA'S**

**A TAPE BY PETER KIRBY**

I have known Woody and Steina Vasulka for more than 10 years, and was able to work with Woody on the final editing of *The Commission* in 1983. In 1992 I was in Paris when Woody installed a version of *The Theater of Hybrid Automata* and I taped him working on that piece, the piece itself, and did an interview with him with the help of Rosanna Albertini. This was to be part of a portrait of the Vasulka's for French television, a project that has yet to be fully funded.

A result of this work has been the development of ideas for a tape about the work and lives of Woody and Steina, using the tools they themselves have worked with over the last two decades. This will include using a broad range of cameras, which display the history of video art image making in the quality of the camera images, and camera mounting systems and control systems that connect the world and the movement of the camera. The tape will include brief comments from collaborators and colleagues in Santa Fe and elsewhere, and talks with Woody and Steina, recorded largely with their video tools.

*Video was like a way out of it. Finally there was bare bones, there was simplicity, a primitive way. And one could completely abandon this idea of telling, of the narrativity.*

- Woody Vasulka

Woody and Steina Vasulka are practical metaphysicians, involved in a quest to capture time and energy and turn it into art. They are involved in the mechanical and the electronic, and create their work at the intersection of these two structures, one very old and the other relatively new. Attempting to do the very difficult with resistant technologies, inventing solutions to problems undreamed of by the makers of machines, they have been for decades on several of the cutting edges of art, and of various technologies, with a strong grounding in a modernist past which they constantly try to escape.