

The West _ 1983

Video Matrix Installation
audio by Woody Vasulka

"The West revels in the vastness of the western spaces, the primeval quality of the landscape and ancient architecture, the rich colors of the earth and sky, and the all-encompassing light and warmth of the sun. The complex layering of spaces and the electronic manipulation of image, color and form so central in Steina's earlier work is still an important aspect of this installation. But The West is emphatically a tribute to the grandeur of nature." _
William D. Judson

Description:

The West is a two video, four audio channel installation with thirty minutes of repeated program. Each Video Laser Disk Player provides one video and two audio sources to a bank of video monitors and four speakers. A video synchronizer aligns the two channels of video for a synchronous playback. At the end of each thirty minute cycle the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat performance.

Laser Disk Players and 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.]

The space:

2 program disks, 2 Disk players, 2 Stereo Amps, 1 Sync Box, AC box, all Cables.

The 22 monitors must be matching in size and manufacture. They should be stacked in pairs two rows high, eleven pairs on eleven separate platforms. The individual Platforms are two feet high. As to a depth and width, these dimensions must be custom made to the size and shape of the monitors (see drawing). The auxiliary equipment (players, amplifiers, synchronizer)[except the monitors and speakers] should be located inside these platforms.

The monitor matrix is wired in the following manner:

1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1
2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2

P L A T F O R M S

All 75 ohm video terminating switches must be open except for the last monitor on each chain.

Audio wiring:

Connect the pair of stereo cables from each player to the two [stereo] amplifiers, and the four speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be hung on the walls in the four corners of the room.

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 esthetic 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 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:

Minimal Active Space (see drawing/floor plan):

10 meters by 7.5 meters by 3.5 meters high

35 feet by 25 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) (carpet?).

Seats (?)

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

Itemized Equipment List for The West:

- 22 Stackable Matching Video Monitors**
- 11 Monitor support platforms**
- 2 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series**
- 2 Program Video Laser Disks, NTSC, Color**
- 1 Two Channel Synchronizer**
- 2 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (4 audio channels)**
- 4 Speakers**
- 4 Speakers Stands or Wall Mounts**
- 22 video cables ca 3 feet (1 meter) long**
- 2 Pairs of Stereo Cables**
- 4 Speaker Cables**
- 27 Power Outlets**

Video Monitors and Monitor Platforms: