

# V o c a l i z a t i o n s

a Video Monitor Matrix \_ 1986  
by Steina (with Joan La Barbara)

"In making Vocalizations, the singer Joan La Barbara does not only make sounds, but virtually composes the work in style of real time performance: the images of the Southwest desert landscapes are intercut and combined by her voice pattern while she observes incoming visuals. In later stage, Steina adds speed changes, directional variations and additional electronic voice processing to the final collage of a "musical quartet" as characterized by Steina."  
- Woody VASULKA

"There is an integration of sound and image in which the singing voice of Joan La Barbara produces energetic permutations in a grid of lines reminiscent of the musical staff of traditional music notation, forming a window onto images of a moving landscape. The rifts, chants and scat singing of La Barbara's voice become a visual dance in this electronic scape." \_ Marita Sturken.

## Description:

Vocalizations is a projected video environment for four video and eight audio channel presentation in a fifteen minute repeated program. Each of the four video disk players provides one video and two audio sources to four screens and eight speakers. A synchronizer aligns the four channels of video for a synchronous playback. At the end of each cycle the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat 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

- going until the units have sufficiently cooled down).
2. After the fans stop, turn off power distributors for the Projectors, Disk players and Synchronizer

Att: the projectors may only be turned off by the power switch on the units and never by pulling the cable out, as the unit needs to be cooled down (ca one minute) by the internal fan.

**Maintenance:**

The projection lenses and the mirrors need to be cleaned with a soft cloth at least once a week

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

Video projectors:	Sharp XG-2000U	230 watts
	Sharp XV- P10U	175 watts
Stereo Amplifiers:	Technics/Sony	150 watts
Video Disk Players:	Pioneer 2200	70 watts
	Pioneer 8000	100 watts
Synchronizer:	Gritz 1	40 watts

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

**Shipping information:**

Number of crates: 3

Box 1: Projector 1

Box 2: Projector 2

Box 3: 2 Disk players, 2 Stereo Amps, 1 Sync Box, AC box,  
All Cables.

The projectors are placed on the floor in the middle of the exhibition space aiming into the four corners, breaking the video frame on the two walls. The speakers are dispersed at equal distances in the hall.

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:

1. Power up Disk players and synchronizer
2. Turn the projectors on (verify green lamp)

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 NOT THE PROJECTOR. If problem persists notify Steina by phone, fax or e-mail.

Shut down:

1. Turn the power on the projectors off locally (the fan will keep

Laser Disk Players. [Other brands (Sony, Phillips) require a different (commercially available) synchronizing device.]

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).

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

Itemized Equipment List for Vocalizations:

4 Matching Projectors

4 Projector Stands

4 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series

4 Program Video Laser Disks, NTSC, Color

1 Four Channel Synchronizer

2 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (4 audio channels)

4 Speakers

4 Speakers Stands or Wall Mounts

10 Video Cables ca 3 feet (1 meter) long

2 Pairs of Stereo Cables

4 Speaker Cables

21 Power Outlets