

FILM IS ART Series



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VIDEO TAPES BY STEINA
Sunday, July 13, 1980

Steina was born in Iceland, attended the Music Conservatory in Prague from 1959-1963 and joined the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in 1964. She came to America the following year and has been a seminal force in the development of the electronic arts since 1970, both as co-founder of The Kitchen, a major exhibition center in New York City, and as a continuing explorer of the possibilities for the generation and manipulation of the electronic image through a broad range of technological tools and aesthetic concerns. Her tapes have been shown extensively in Europe and the U.S. She was a Guggenheim Fellow in Video (1976) and has received grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts. With her husband Woody Vasulka, in 1979 she created six programs for WNED--Channel 17 in Buffalo, supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts, and has had an exhibit, Machine Vision, at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. In 1980 Steina moved to Santa Fe where she presently resides and works.

Tonight Steina will be showing two works completed in Santa Fe: Cantaloupe is a report on the development of real time digital imaging. The second tape Urban Episodes which was shot in Minneapolis, Minnesota is the latest in the series of Machine Vision.

"In the spring of 1975 I started to work on a series of installations and tapes, all involving mechanized modes of camera control. The effort resulted in a collection of works which I call Machine Vision.

Ordinarily the camera view is associated with a human view point, paying attention to the human conditions around. In this series the camera conforms to a mechanized decision making of instruments, with the movements, and attention directed towards their own machine to machine observations." from Vasulka, 1978 catalog for the Machine Vision Exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo N.Y.