



Photo by Kevin Nobis

Steina Vasulka's revolving video sculpture

... at Albright-Knox

**Albright-Knox Review**

CEX- 11/21/78

## Two TV Aces Deal In Avant-Garde!

By **GEORGE HOWELL**

Special to The Courier-Express

The everyday use of television as a way to relax and escape is not very interesting to internationally acclaimed video artists Woody and Steina Vasulka, who share a definitely different notion of the uses and pleasures of that medium.

Rotating camera and unusual video tapes of dancing discs and self-transforming squares are just some of the visual delights that appear in the current Albright-Knox exhibition entitled "The Vasulkas/ Steina: Machine Vision/ Woody: Descriptions."

### Major Showplace

The Vasulkas, who moved from New York to Buffalo in 1973, have been explorers in video arts as teachers, technical designers and art organizers. While living in New York, they co-founded the Klitchen, a major showplace for experimental work in electronic sound and image making. Woody presently teaches at the University of Buffalo's Center for Media Study.

Steina's "Machine Vision," a collection of individual tapes and sculptural installation-displays, explores the ways that television cameras represent and define space, whether it be the open space of urban expressways, the space of an exhibition room in the Albright, or the space that electronic signals occupy on magnetic tape.

Her work reveals that video representations are not always exact mirror copies. For instance, "From Cheektowaga to Tonawanda," a three-part tape, is a subtly humorous exercise in transformations. By changing the coloring, the order of images, and the shape of individual scan lines (the picture is composed of rapidly spun lines of electron beams), those roadways and wooden frame house, such familiar sights to most of us, suddenly emerge as strange but amusing objects.

### Two Cameras

The single-most interesting piece in this exhibit presents the viewer with two TV cameras, mounted on a steel carriage, which rotate around a large glass ball. This installation, stately and elegant in its revolving motion, is at once a portrait of the cameras themselves and a magnetic center of power, pulling into itself and altering the very space of the exhibition room.

Woody's "Descriptions," a sparser showing, utilizes photos, diagrams, stereo-grams and video-tape to illustrate the theoretical approach that he takes in constructing video images. By using digital computers and other sophisticated electronic tools, Woody is trying to establish a new vocabulary for picture-making.

The Vasulkas' exhibit will be on display through Sunday.