

Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

Sept. 13, 1993

Dear Steina,

My fax is up and running again. You can send the last 7 pages now.

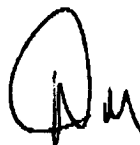
More on the speaking engagements. I would like Woody to talk about his environment that he did here at St. Denis, the use of artificial intelligence in an art installation - "the intelligent room", at the engineering school, the CNAM. This is the Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Metiers that I mentioned, the school we are joining to start our art and new technologies' program. Woody's would be the first major talk of the program. The audience would be mostly engineering students with a hefty portion of art students. I mostly want to impress the engineers and make them understand that the artist is way out ahead of them in using and applying the new technologies to new forms of expression. We would need visuals of the installation, tape or slides, for the talk. What do you think? Possible?

The date we're after is Nov. 18th at 5:00 in the afternoon. You should send a copy of Woody's bio, the same one I have and a paragraph description of the talk. Send me the description first so we can go over it together. I'm hoping through this first attempt to turn this in to something regular either here or on line. The person to send everything to is:

Stéphane Natkin  
La Boutique - CESIR  
124, rue Vielle du Temple  
Tél. 4274-4216  
Fax 4274-5853

You met him at his gallery when you were here. There are other things to develop with him too when you are here. We have to move very fast on this since there are lots of details and Stéphane wants to get it out in time to get the press to attend. I need to have it settled by the end of the week.

I can have Woody talk at my school either the afternoon of the 16th or the 19th. What do you think are the chances of Beaux Arts inviting you back again? I'm still scouting elsewhere as well. Best to both.



Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

Sept. 17, 1993

Dear Steina,

Everything arrived and looks good. I'll get to the article this weekend and will send a copy to Christiane today. On the paragraph summary of the talk, it looks good as well, but I would like to have it mention something about artificial intelligence - five words. If I understood it, there was some primitive form of understanding in the piece and I think it's important to mention it. The notion of interactive space is extremely important and we would like to make contact with architects on this point as well to invite them to the conference. The bio and description of the "Theater" are perfect. Fax everything to Natkin quickly.

For the time being I only have the two dates and around 3000 francs, as mentioned. I don't think that would even cover Woody's expenses. I'm still looking but I have no idea if I can find more. I tried Boissier, but he doesn't have anything. I will try Beaux Arts when they are open.

I called Le Fresnoy which is a big school being built near Lille in the north. They are having a conference presentation by their architect, Bernard Tschumi, in November and in the program I received it says that he will be presenting tapes of video artists, among them you folks. I immediately called to tell them that Woody would be here and they are interested in having him come. The dates are Nov. 9th & 10th. I gave them your phone and fax numbers in NM. The person responsible is Pascale Pronier. I hope she calls. Woody should try to get his plane ticket from Prague out of them plus a few nights. I don't know if there can be a lecture. The address plus the names of the director and administrator are:

Le Fresnoy  
Studio National des Arts Contemporains  
Alain Fleischer & Christian Lamarche  
22, rue du Fresnoy  
59200 Tourcoing, Fr.  
Tel. 33-2070-4362  
Fax 33-2026-4462

SHE DID NOT

Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

Oct. 11, 1993

Dear Steina,

I need the banking information to pay for Woody's visit urgently. Again, I need your exact address, the address and bank account number of your bank. Please fax it as soon as you can so I can get it in the works. It takes forever to transfer.

The school in Bourges is definitely interested in inviting Woody around Nov. 10th. I gave them his numbers in the Czech Republic as well as yours. It's a good place. They're now running an installation by Peter Campus. I was there last week for the opening and to see Peter. Really nice! The director is Patrick Talbot who was the French Cultural Attaché in New York for five years. He's a partner in all our projects and a good guy. They also have an English computer artist, Brian Reffin Smith, who lives in Berlin and teaches there. Another person you both should know. Christiane is on a year's leave and also lives in the area. She's buying a house in the country, so she'll be there too. I hope it's possible. If not, they will invite him in the spring. There are a fare amount of things coming together for the spring.

If you talk to Woody, pass on all this and tell him that I will probably go to Nice with him. We could leave together by plane on the 19th. It's an Electronic Cafe event and we're collaborating with them. I also want to make sure that he and Mort meet the museum people there. The group in Nice will put us up.

Things are great, but I need a vacation already. Lots of love.



If Woody goes to Nice, he should know that the organizers of Mort's event are friends and soon to be members of the network. They know of a cheap plane ticket from Paris to Nice, if a weekend is included, which is the case. They might be able to provide lodging as well. While there, Woody should definitely meet with the people from the Museum for a possible show of your work. They're interested in video installations and Luc Martinez can organize that meeting. I don't know if they can find a gig for Woody, but he should ask. Contacts:

Michel Redolfi & Luc Martinez  
CIRM  
33, av. Jean-Médécin  
06000 Nice  
Tel. 33-9388-7468  
Fax 33-9316-0766

They both speak good English and have been to CalArts. I will call them to bring them up to date on all this.

I'll be talking to Natkin this afternoon about the conference. If you can go with only the two things we have lined up now, we will start perparing it immediately. I think we can find lodging somehow. Woody can sleep on our fold-out couch if necessary.

Let me know for this first stage. I'll keep on pushing for more. Love to you both.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

Oct. 25, 1993

Dear Steina,

I talked to Woody and all the dates are set, the 16th at my school, the 17th at Bourges and the 18th at CNAM, departure for Nice on the 19th. I desperately need the banking information I asked for. I don't want you to have to wait months to be paid so I have to get it moving now. Please send it as soon as possible.

I want to go to Nice with Woody, but I don't know if I can, question of money and time. I'm still trying to arrange it. I will try to contact him in Prague, but, if you talk to him before I do, pass on the following: the round trip plane ticket to Nice costs around 900 francs. He would have to come back to Paris to profit from that special price, so he should plan to leave from here to go back east. I have to reserve the tickets fast, or we lose them.

There's all kinds of other nice stuff happening, but I'll fill you in on that later.

Best,

*Don*  
The article looks good. I'm putting  
my part to add some more history to it.

Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

Oct. 27, 1993

Dear Steina,

Many thanks for the offer for the trip to Nice. If I can't come up with anything else, I may take you up on it. I reserved the tickets. Woody can pay when he gets here with plastic. Nice is taking care of the hotel. We will leave here at 3:30 in the afternoon Friday and return to Paris at noon on Monday. The trip takes about an hour. I might have to go to Lyon Monday instead.

Woody will spend Wednesday night in Bourges and drive back to Paris on Thursday morning with Christiane.

It might be easier to pay into your bank in Frankfurt. I need the exact address of the bank, the address you use in Frankfurt for the bank account and the numbers of course. What do you mean by bank #?

Woody will be meeting with the woman who runs the video section of the Museum of Modern Art in Nice. I suggested a show for the two of you and she is very interested. People will also be coming to his presentation at CNAM to talk about other gigs in the spring. Nantes is interested, Dunkerque, and, as I mentioned once, Montbeliarde might be interested in a week's workshop. I will also be proposing you for a workshop in Greece when I am there the first week in December. Things are moving along nicely.

Lots of love,



Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

March 6, 1994

Dear Woody & Steina,

Things are beginning to move. The Czech government is in on the satellite exchange project and we are starting to make some progress. The equipment that was given seems to be only good for reception and not for transmission. That doesn't surprize me. It sounds typical for the bureaucrats running this program. You can receive things from France, but we don't want anything from you. I do have the Czech Embassy here behind it and prepared to request that the French complete the package so that we can do two-way programing. They are writing this project into their official exchange program with France.

The Czech cultural attaché is the girl friend of a guy that has been auditing my course at ENSAD. He's all hot about getting this going and brough her over to meet me and discuss it. Everything is evolving from that. She knows all the players, the director of your school, the mayor of Brno, the ministers concerned, etc. and will do everyting she can to make it happen. The Czech Embassy has offered me a trip to the country to discuss all this and they would like it to be at the same time that you are there. I need to know your dates as quickly as possible. The best time being suggested is the middle two weeks of April. I think I could do that.

I'm guessing that Gerry is not going to get his conference off the ground for either May or June, so that would not be a problem for me. Frankly, as much as I would like to see that happen, I would prefer that it be at the beginning of the new academic year. The end of September would be great.

Let me know as soon as you can so I can pin all this down. You still didn't answer my last fax about the money.

*Love to you both*  
*Don*

Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

March 19, 1994

Dear Woody & Steina,

It's official. I'm being invited to Prague and Brno from April 17th to the 23rd, four days in the capital and two in Brno with the intention of doing several meetings with Woody. It looks like the school is the official inviter. Sylvia's coming too, so we're going to make it a little vacation too. They're beginning to line up appointments for you and me with people from various ministries, schools, and others. We may meet with the Minister of Culture. Your school told the ministry that you were expected on the 20th. If it's possible for you to be there a couple of days earlier than planned, it would be useful.

The people from the embassy here are working on the satellite connection exactly the way I told them to do it. Meaning that they are gently insisting that the French turn it into a two way connection, and then we can do a first event, some kind of on-line video festival along with tape and film exchange, plus a live on-line roundtable. So far I find everyone extremely efficient and delightful to work with. They also want me to help them link all their schools and one of the appointments will be with the School of Fine Arts in Prague.

France Telecom supposedly has the contract for redoing the telephone network in the country. They have an office in Prague so I will try to see them when I'm there. I'll set that up from here before. This is turning into something very nice.

Are you guys going to use our article in your San Fransisco catalog as we once discussed? If so, I would be very flattered, but that probably means we have to look at it again. Let me know.

Steina, come to Prague so we can all be together again.





Woody and Steina Vasulka  
fax 505-473-0614

Don Foresta  
fax 331-4245-1312

March 29, 1994

Dear Woody & Steina,

More news. We are arriving in Prague on April 16th. There are appointments set up with the art school in Prague on Tuesday and with the Ministry of Education on Wednesday. Thursday we are leaving for Brno where we will stay until Saturday morning. We leave for Paris at the end of the afternoon the same day. I hope we will have a maximum amount of overlap. I hope to see the people at the France-Telecom office there too and maybe the Institut Français. I may be asked to give a talk on art and science in Brno.

The people here have asked that you assure the school that my visit is not some kind of disguised inspection. Apparently, the announcement that I was coming got people at the school worried about all the international attention that we are bringing to it and they seem to think that we coming to evaluate them.

My friends at the embassy here are looking into the necessary equipment now that it's clear that what they have is reception only. They have also identified satellite time. We should be able to leave with a conference planned.

Give me a call or a fax when you have news on your end. What about the money owed you from France? Do you want me to bring you your money from Bourges? Have you been paid by the other schools including mine?

We start our on-line faculty Thursday with Kit and Sherrie. Lots of love.



Tomas Ruller  
Video Multimedia Performance Atelier  
Technical University of Brno  
fax 42-5-337-165

Don Foresta  
IMC  
tel. 331-4245-3186  
fax 331-4245-1312

Sept. 7, 1994

Dear Tomas & Jennifer,

We're back and gearing up for the new year. Pavel got back yesterday and called with an up-date on the situation with France Telecom following up on our meeting with them and his phone call to you. He was called just before he left on vacation by the people from France-Telecom who told him they had reevaluated the costs and found that they were even higher than they had originally told us, much higher. Pavel tried to get in touch with you with that news before he left but was unable to do so. We assumed that the situation had become so expensive that you would decide not to pursue it. That is our conclusion here.

We don't know what has been going on but presume the change of heart was due to the fact that France-Telecom realized they were not going to get the contract to redo the Czech phone system and that any effort on their part would be a wasted investment.

It seems to me that we should not beat our heads against the wall and forget about October and move on to the next possible opportunity to connect. It may take us one or two more times. In my experience, that would not be unusual. Don't forget that we are ahead of the technology, which is what makes our efforts so interesting. We may just have a chance of influencing what that technology could become.

I think the next possibility that would make the most sense would be the exhibition planned by the Soros Foundation next May on art and the new technologies. Your Atelier could propose setting up a network installation and, obviously, we will do all we can to make it work. You would definitely need Czech-Telecom for that, as well as other phone companies. We think France-Telecom will be interested for two reasons; one, Duthoit promised something and did not come through so he will try to set that straight, and, two, the bidding for phone service in the Republic is wide open again since the Czech government decided not to go with one firm, but to spread the bidding around. That means that France-Telecom is in the game again.

We will help in any way we can including coming there to help with the technical end if necessary. We have the time to do it with less pressure now. However, I would suggest you try to identify the right people now in the Czech-Telecom structure. I will be discussing it on this end. You could probably start again with Duthoit.

I am stilling working on the conference project and will finalize the budget this month.

We will also be working on what ever projects the European Community offers. We should have news on that by the end of this month. I still need floppy disk versions from you with the information you and Bratislava send on the schools. I want to avoid retyping everything since we are only two people here and very much over-worked.

I now have an Internet address, forest@cnam.fr, which you can use if it's easier.

I hope the summer vacations were a good ones. Our's was great. All the best from all of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Duthoit'.

copy: Woody Vasulka