

THE **Kitchen** 475-9865

240 Mercer St. New York 10012

Dear

The Kitchen is a multi-use media theater, part of the Mercer Arts Centre complex of theatres and workshops located in the southern part of Greenwich Village in New York City. With the support of the New York State Council on the Arts, we have opened the space to artists working in all aspects of the electronic media, from experimental music to live and taped half-inch video. The presentation and workshop space has also been the scene of events in a number of other intermedia areas including light art, slide shows, cinema, dance, bio-feedback works. Most of these events are free, some ask a small contribution.

During our operations over the past months we have gained a fairly sophisticated audience devoted to media/intermedia events and receptive to experimental forms. As a result of this positive public response we feel it time to present a festival of video art dealing specifically with the forms that arise from the uniquely electronic nature of video; i.e., video as a medium in and of itself (as opposed to its more documentary/naturalistic uses which will be covered in a later series).

Among those who have already indicated their participation are well established video artists such as Nam June Paik, Alda Tambellini, Eric Siegel, Stephen Beck, Woody and Steina Vasulka and locally known ones such as Bill Etra, Dimitri Devyatkin, and Shridhar Bapat. As well, we will be introducing to the public a large number of newer video experimenters, among them Ben Tatti and Ernie Gisella.

The festival will be taking place from mid-May thru the end of June. The form of the festival is outlined below:

- a) We will present tapes of any length with presentations ranging from a multi-artist format to a one-artist show. Live on-going events will also be possible.
- b) There will be no censorship or editorial involvement on our part beyond that requested by the artist.
- c) We will fulfill any special presentation requirements within our capabilities. The physical space itself (rectangular, 25' x 75') is totally flexible.
- d) Available hardware includes 2 portapack cameras, Sony SEG-1 mixer, Shintron black and white keyer, 6 large screen monitors (only one color), Sony 5000 A 1/2" VTR, Sony AU3400 portapack, b.-w. video projector, and a complete audio system.
- e) We regret that there will be no tape fee but upon the artist's request we will collect contributions or an admissions price (suggested maximum: \$1.50) which will go to the artist. The space itself is being financed by the New York State Council on the Arts. Equipment and time are being donated by the festival organizers: Woody and Steina Vasulka, and Shridhar Bapat.
- f) The festival will probably be reviewed in the Village Voice and in the New York Times among other publications. We will send copies of all relevant reviews and publicity as well as posters, programs, etc. to all participating video artists.

- g) We guarantee that no misuse of the tapes will occur and that showings will take place only at the times announced publicly. Copies will be returned promptly.

We eagerly look forward to your participation and would like to hear from you as soon as possible. The festival is to take place on weekends and certain week days from mid-May thru June. In addition to hearing from you, we would appreciate your referring to us the work of newer experimenters in electronic video art who may not yet have come to our attention.

We may be contacted at the Kitchen address:

The Kitchen
(Mercer Arts Center)
240 Mercer Street
New York, N. Y. 10012

and at the following telephone numbers:

The Kitchen: (212) 475-9865

Shridhar Bapat (home): (212) 222-7992

Yours in anticipation,

Steina Vasulka

Shridhar Bapat

SB/dle