

A traveling exhibition organized and circulated by
Independent Curators Incorporated, New York

Essays by JoAnn Hanley and
Ann-Sargent Wooster

JoAnn Hanley
Guest Curator

The First Generation: Women and Video, 1970-75

Violin Power, 1969-78
Black-and-white, 10:00 minutes, sound
Courtesy the artist

Steina terms this procedural work "a demo tape on how to play video on the violin." Her background as a violinist and her evolution from musician to visual artist is referenced through an analogy of video camera to musical instrument. The violin itself ultimately becomes an image generating tool, as she connects it to imaging devices, creating abstract visual transpositions of sound and vibrations.

Orbital Obsessions, 1974-78
Black-and-white, 24:00 minutes, sound
Courtesy the artist

This tape contains segments from a number of earlier tapes in Steina's *Machine Vision* project which involved the creation of a machine-derived way of seeing uninfluenced by the idiosyncrasies of the human eye. These experiments involved constructing mechanical devices to program the camera to move by itself. Steina has said of these works, "We were absolutely in love with what we call the signal which is the voltage and frequency part of video. It could be translated from one property into another. You could affect the image, the content of the image itself. We were interested also in processing the images and in moving them in unconventional ways....What I really was interested in was this self observing system in which whatever was observing was also affecting the image" (Steina, phone interview, 6 June 1993).

