International Film Series

Fall 1979
AVANT-GARDE CINEMA  October 8

VIDEO ARTISTS

WOODY AND STEINA VASULKA IN PERSON

Mon. Oct 8, Fine Arts N141, 8 pm, $1.00

Moving Images in a Binary State is the title of this evening's show. Woody and Steina Vasulka have been seminal forces in the development of the electronic arts since 1970, both as co-founder (Steina V.) of The Kitchen, a video exhibition center in N.Y.C. City, and as continuing explorers of the possibilities for the generation and manipulation of the electronic image through a broad range of technological tools and aesthetic concerns. Their tapes have been shown in Paris, Toronto, Tokyo, Munich, Iceland, Romania and the U.S.A. (80 min. program)

AVANT-GARDE CINEMA  October 15

A SELECTION OF NEW FILMS

BY FRAMPTON, BARNETT, LEE, AND SHERMAN
WOODY & STEINA VASULKA
IN PERSON-VIDEO ARTISTS

Video—A Summary — This program will be a composite look at several paths of exploration in video embarked on by the Vasulka’s since 1969.

"...Steina and Woody are referred to as pioneers in video. Icelandic and Czech by birth...they are interested in the magic and rituals of image making with the tools of video. Each new group of tapes is the result of their investigation of new tools—tools they often conceptualize or invent or which are invented by their friends..." (Linda Cathcart, Albright-Knox Art Gallery)

"At first we looked at video as a singular discipline. We, as well as others, used all expressions from abstract to documentary in an aesthetic unity, escaping genre division of other media. The portrait itself was a dominant tool for all. We were introduced to the alteration of video images through the basic equipment available. We could manipulate the scan lines by changing the deflection controls of the monitor...Progressively, through new tools, we learned the principles of generating and processing images, having access to internal structuring of the video signal itself.

"A decisive tool in our early collection was a sound synthesizer (Purney)...Most significantly, we used a matrix of video screens to relate movements of video frames, a function of time, from which the horizontal relationships led us to a more environmental understanding of video."

"In 1971...we decided to establish a permanent place for video...we opened The Kitchen at the Mercer Arts Center in New York...In the great majority of our tapes, we have used sounds generated by video images or images conceived from the sound spectrum. Until now, before our encounter with the computer, our expression of image-sound-image has been direct and linear...the process has revealed to us the behavior of the medium, its materiality and its control modes.

"Our work has developed through design and use of special videotools, which have progressively contributed to the formal and conceptual complexity of our imagery..." (Woody and Steina Vasulka)