THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION

is the first major museum exhibition to examine television as a form for contemporary art: television as a gallery or theater or alternative space, even television as art. An international selection of artworks made for broadcast, the exhibition documents the crossovers and collaborations that take place on this new television, between and among dancers, musicians, playwrights, actors, authors, poets, and visual and video artists. And it investigates the artists' own investigation of one medium—be it dance or music or literature—through and about. It examines the transformations and makes and the possibilities it allows. These provocative uses of television time and technology are organized in THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION according to the medium transformed by the electronic image; the six categories are Dance for Television, Music for Television, Theatre for Television, Literature for Television, The Video Image (works that address video as a visual art, that make reference to the traditional visual arts and to seeing itself), and Not Necessarily Television (works that address the usual content of TV, even transform it). THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION also presents another level of collaboration in artists' television. It documents the involvement of television stations in Europe and America with art and artists' video. It recognizes their commitment and acknowledges the risks they take in allowing the artists the opportunity to realize works of art. The intention of THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION is to examine this two-decade-old phenomenon, to exchange information about it, and to stimulate new and still more new artists' productions for television.

DANCE FOR TELEVISION

Merce by Merce by Paik
Charles Atlas/Perse Cunningham, Nam June Paik/Dinéko Kobata
1975 (50 min.)
A trail-blazing experiment in choreography for the frame, with excerpts from performances and interviews.

Dancing on the Edge
Tinna Brown
ABB (28:49 min.)
The program captures essential aspects of Brown's choreography, offering a glimpse at her methods of making dance.

Portrait
Hans van Manen
1983 (50 min.)
In this ballet, performed by Pauline and America with art and artists' video. It recognizes their commitment and acknowledges the risks they take in allowing the artists the opportunity to realize works of art. The intention of THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION is to examine this two-decade-old phenomenon, to exchange information about it, and to stimulate new and still more new artists' productions for television.
Repetitions
Marie Andre
1984 (45 min.)
This "observational documentary" was recorded during rehearsals of a new ballet, "Elena's Aria," by Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker and her company, Rosas.

Waterproof
Jean-Louis Le Tacon
1986 (22 min.)
This work was created from the underwater spectacle originally performed by the Compagnie Astrakan at the Centre National de Danse Contemporaine d'Angers.

Ex-Romance
Charles Atlas
1984/87 (49:27 min.)
In this romantic story in scrapbook form, an ex-dancer and a TV talkshow host present episodes from a dance performed three years earlier, and recount the romances that might have been.

Waterproof, 1984 (45 min.) Marie Andre/Teresa de Keersmaeker

Bizarre Love Triangle
Robert Longo
1987 (4:10 min.)
This fast-paced video set in New York City features New Order in a dizzying interpretation that suggests a "new order" for the music/image industry.

To Sorrow
Kit Fitzgerald
1984 (5:25 min.)
This tone poem combines sound and image to reflect Fitzgerald's inspiration from the Thomas Hardy novel, "The Return of the Native.

As If Memories Could Deceive Me
Marcel Odenbach
1986 (17:35 min.)
This personal reflection on history, memory and national identity combines the symphonic music of Robert Schumann and the absolute music of F. Marschall/U. Tillerman with propaganda films and original footage of the New England Conservatory Orchestra.

The Flood
Jaap Drupsteen
1985 (25:25 min.)
A contemporary visualization of the Old Testament story is set to music by Stravinsky for this piece.

Walzer
Gabor Body
1985 (3 min.)
A fleeting glimpse at the experience of love and death, Body interprets Novalis's poem "Walzer" with the music of Mozart.

Imagine
Zbigniew Rybczynski
1987 (3:15 min.)
John Lennon's lyrics and melody are musically reinterpreted.

You Ain't Fresh
Julia Heyward
1986 (4:20 min.)
Heyward composes the comic antics of the Boogie Boys in a rap music clip.

I Want Some Insecticide
Branda Miller
1986 (3:53 min.)
Set to the music of Los Angeles musician Fredrik Nilsen, Miller presents a surreal view of power relations, focusing on the absurdity of scientific developments which endanger the planet.

The Kiss (An Operatic Duet)
Paul Richards/Michael Nyman
1984 (9 min.)
This love song, excerpted from a full opera, uses paint box techniques spontaneously to emphasize the lovers' emotional exchange.

The Kiss (An Operatic Duet), 1984 (9 min.) Paul Richards/Michael Nyman

1981 (30 min.)
This is an excerpt from composer Robert Ashley's six-part opera, "Perfect Lives (Private Parts)," with video direction by John Sanborn.