

**SFAI**San Francisco Art Institute  
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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: May 22, 1991TO: Steina Vasulka 505-473-0614FROM: Jeanie Weiffenbach

## MESSAGE:

Dear Steina,  
Forgive me for being out of touch. A major family crisis has had me out of commission since April.

Just today I finally heard from the Museum: the answer is no, because the monitors are on tour (Wexner Center). I am dreadfully sorry that I don't have more options.

We may have to put off a project until a time when I can raise funds for it. But in the meantime,

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April 15, 1998

Steina and Woody Vasulka  
Route 6, Box 100  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Steina and Woody:

It is with greatest pleasure that I write to offer you the award of honorary doctorate from the San Francisco Art Institute.

Founded in 1871, the San Francisco Art Institute is one of the premier colleges of art in the country and the only art school in the country dedicated exclusively to art making as an aesthetic practice (as opposed to commercial and applied uses of arts). As I am sure you know, this quite august background is balanced by more than a century's commitment to experimentation and innovation. Distinguished faculty and alumni have included luminaries such as Richard Diebenkorn, Ansel Adams, Joan Brown, Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko, Dorteia Lange, Karen Finley, William T. Wiley, Annie Leibovitz, among countless others.

The San Francisco Art Institute annually confers honorary doctorates upon individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the fields of art or education in the United States. Your achievements as artists, as innovators, as catalysts, and as visionaries in the field of electronic arts and communication warrant, indeed demand, such recognition.

Your independent and collaborative works define for successive generations both the form and the language of video art. The versatility and expressiveness practiced by countless artists today can be directly traced to your investigations from the 1960's and 70's. Your emphasis on technology as artistic medium and material, and explorations with interactivity, are the foundations of so many contemporary experiments with digital work and, ultimately, work based on the possibilities of the web.

Letter to Steina and Woody Vasulka  
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We seek to honor you as well for your role in pioneering new communities of artists, and in promoting the role artists can play in a dynamic culture. Your presence, as founders of the Kitchen and among the first artists to participate in the Center for Experiments in Television, established not only new venues for artists, but new possibilities of how to be an active and activist artist in our society.

For all of these reasons, we would like very much to recognize your achievements with a doctorate of arts. Previous recipients of honorary doctorates from the San Francisco Art Institute include figures as renowned and diverse as Stan Brakhage, Joan Mondale, David Hockney and bell hooks.

Honorary doctorates will be awarded this year at Commencement Exercises on Sunday May 17, 1998 on our campus. The festivities begin at 12:00pm and will end sometime after 2:00pm, when we will adjourn for a reception and lunch. If you are able to join us, we will of course cover all costs of transportation and lodging.

I hope very much that you will be able to accept this award. It would be a great honor to recognize you in San Francisco, a community that has been profoundly affected by your presence and work for over two decades. It would also be a great personal pleasure to meet you, as we share many mutual friends and colleagues from Bob Riley to Mary Griffin MacArthur.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 415-749-4549 (or fax 415-749-1951) if I can provide further information or answer any questions.

I look forward to discussing this offer with you, and hope sincerely that we will be able to celebrate together on May 17.

Most Sincerely,

  
Ella King Torrey  
President