Faithful attendance at the Kitchen this month can transform you from a video art novice to a video art knowledgeable as the handful of artists who have shared in the creation of this uniquely 20th century art form gather for the 2nd Annual Festival of Video Arts. The program includes tapes from WGBH in Boston where in 1967 Fred Barzyk conducted the earliest coherent explorations of video as an art form, some work being completed especially for this Festival seven years later, and a good sampling of everything that developed in between. In the easy atmosphere of the Kitchen you can unabashedly ask questions to fill yourself in on the evolving technology behind the evolving imagery. On Wednesday nights, guest hosts will present highlights of the preceding week, and on the 31st some unhappy tribunal will choose shining moments from the work of the more than 80 Festival participants.

The Festival began a week ago, but you can review at tonight's open screening and continue from there. (The Kitchen, Mercer Arts Center, 240 Mercer Street)