2 channel multimonitor video and 4 channel sound installation
color, sound (30 minute cycle)
22 video monitors, 2 videotapes, 2 videotape players, synchronizer
This work was produced using a soft-keyer designed by George Brown.
The sound was composed by Woody Vasulka
San Francisco Museum of Art
Accessions Committee fund: Mimi and Peter Haas, Susan and Robert Green, Mr. and Mrs.
Brooks Walker, Jr., and Thomas Wiesel

The Vasulkas moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1980. At this time, Steina began to use
her machine devices and video techniques to investigate geographical and geological
space. In The West, she charts the relationship of landscape to time, specifically the ways
in which the desert landscape retains within it the imprint of geological time and the
remains of civilizations. This work addresses the spectrum of human technologies
evident in the desert, from the Very Large Array (VLA) satellite antenna installation to
the ruins of the ancient Anasazi Indians—each in its own way a quest to understand the
universe. Steina structures this work with both her signature "allvision" mirrored
sphere and the visual motif of horizontal drift, which gives the impression that the
image is moving sideways onto the next screen. With a sound environment created by
Woody, The West presents the Southwestern landscape as an ever changing space where
past and present converge in the temporal nature of the land, transposed through the
electronic image.