

Video Installation 'The West' Will Open At Rockefeller Center

"The West," a six-screen video installation by Steina and Woody Vasulka, is the next art exhibit at the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center Gallery at Fredonia State University College. The 30-minute piece, which runs continuously, employs state-of-the-art video technology, yet is lyrical in its imagery. The piece was shown at a number of video festivals in Europe last summer and was commissioned by SUNY in 1984.

The show opens to the public on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 3 to 8 p.m. This will be preceded by a preview reception for the Friends of the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibition is made possible by the Friends Annual Fund.

In "The West," video artists Steina and Woody Vasulka explore the an-

cient and contemporary records of mankind's actions on the desert landscape. Steina's camera has recorded the ceremonial sites of Chaco Canyon, home of the ancient Anasazi people, ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians; the ruins of a Spanish church at Quarai; and New Mexico's VLA (Very Large Array) radio-telescope system. With Steina's mechanized camera and spinning mirrors and with highly saturated golds and blues, the imagery is in constant, stately motion.

In describing the inspiration of her work, Mrs. Vasulka says, "In no other region of the country does the presence of the sun play such a significant role in the ecology of the land—arid and eroded, with an exceptional clarity of the bright skies—forming notions of extra-terrestrial importance in the minds of its inhabitants. The landscape, by its dimension and by its geometric and textural variety inspires man to create harmonious structures, dwellings and other earth works."

"The West" will be on display through Feb. 20. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday and Sunday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.