Title: VOCALIZATIONS
by Steina
1990
(with Joan La Barbara)

"Vocalizations comes from a series of live performances for video images and voice. Vocalist Joan La Barbara’s voice patterns are visualized here as video and provide an active syntactic element, combining a foreground/background of moving video images. Additional strategies are brought into this process including forward/reverse motion and speed changes in tape transport and digital sound processing. The final work plays together on four separate video channels."

-Woody Vasulka.

"There is an integration of sound and image in which the singing voice of Joan La Barbara produces energetic permutations in a grid of lines reminiscent of the musical staff of traditional music notation, forming a window onto images of a moving landscape. The rifts, chants and scat singing of La Barbara’s voice become a visual dance in this electronic scape."

-Marita Sturken.

Media:

Four Laser Discs in NTSC format

Technical description:

Vocalizations is a four video/four audio channel installation on a 10 minute repeated loop. Each of the two video Laser Players provides one video and one audio source to a bank of video monitors and four speakers. A synchronizer aligns the two channels of video for synchronous playback. At the end of each cycle the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat performance. The Vasulka disk synchronizer works with Pioneer industrial disk players (2200 to 8000 series) which is not interchangeable with other makers of Video Laser Disc Players.

Vocalizations cont
Video:
4 Large matching video monitors or four projectors
4 Pioneer video laser disk players
1 Synchronizer

Audio:
2 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (4 audio channels)
4 Speakers
4 Speakers stands