

ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY

1285 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14222

P R E S S P R E V I E W

The Press is cordially invited to preview the exhibitions

Steina: Machine Vision

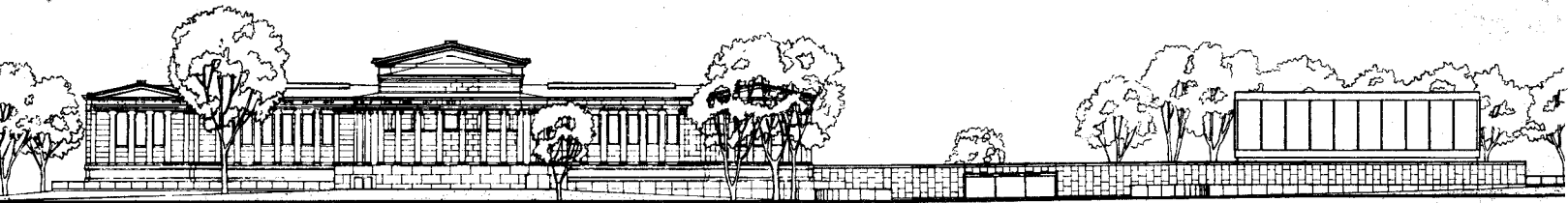
THE VASULKAS/

Woody: Descriptions

on Thursday, October 19 at 4 p.m., in the North Temporary
Exhibition Galleries of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

For further information and photographs, please contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCTOBER 21 - NOVEMBER 26, 1978

MEMBERS' PREVIEW: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1978, 8:30-11 PM

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Two exhibitions presenting the work of the internationally renowned video artists Steina and Woody Vasulka open at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on Saturday, October 21, 1978. Entitled THE VASULKAS/ Steina: Machine Vision/ Woody: Descriptions, the exhibitions consist of two new video installations as well as video tapes, photographs, designs and drawings, documenting the artists' highly original and innovative achievements in the field of experimental video.

The exhibitions were organized for the Albright-Knox Art Gallery by Curator Linda L. Cathcart and are supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a Federal agency.

In their statements for the exhibition catalogue, the Vasulkas have so described their installations and tapes. Steina: "The installation...is based on performance of electro-mechanical devices...developing mutual relationships, an awareness characteristic to every system in an active state....The Flux tapes deal with two opposites: static images, set in motion through rifting-turning-switching [and] moving images, set to a relative standstill by freeze framing and fast switching". Woody: "In this exhibit, I want

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to show the underlying principles of the craft of electronic imaging....There will be two sets of tableaux: the first, a series of stills dealing with waveform expression [and] the second, a series of stills examining binary expressed visuals....Another element...is a new computer work on videotape, still in progress, called Transformations."

Together with these two separate installations, a combined retrospective exhibition, Materials, will "give insight [into] our conceptual, textural and structural understanding of video craft", using several monitors.

Steina Vasulka was born in 1940 in Reykjavik, Iceland, studied violin and played with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra and, later on, as a free-lance violinist in New York City. Woody, born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1937, studied at the School of Engineering in Brno and at the Academy of Performing Arts, Faculty of Film and Television, in Prague. The Vasulkas were married in Prague in 1964 and came to the United States in 1965. In 1971, they co-founded The Kitchen in New York City, an electronic media theatre forum for new video, film and music. From then on their work--together and separately--gained national and international recognition with exhibitions and installations at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the XIII International Bienal in São Paulo, Brazil, The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Berliner Film Festival, among others. They have received grants from the Creative Artists Public Service Program (CAPS), the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In 1973, Steina and Woody Vasulka moved to Buffalo, N.Y. where they still live and work.

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The catalogue accompanying the exhibition was designed to provide the most complete documentation on the work of both artists. It will contain descriptions of all their videotapes currently in distribution as well as a list of all taped material since 1969; the tools used by the Vasulkas in their work, including very advanced computerized image-generating systems, will also be described in detail. An interview with the Vasulkas by Linda L. Cathcart, complete chronology, bibliography and exhibition information will be included as well as 50 black and white photographs.

Two public lectures by the Vasulkas have been scheduled during the course of the exhibitions. Steina will discuss her work on Tuesday, November 7, at 8 p.m. in the Gallery Auditorium and Woody on the following Tuesday, November 14, also at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium.

THE VASULKAS will be on view through November 26, 1978.

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September 28, 1978