Vasulka Ignites Commons' Gallery with *Pyroglyphs*

Fall semester began with a sense of excitement as Steina Vasulka descended on the Institute to share her extensive knowledge of the video domain with faculty, staff, and students. Her lecture, *Multichannel Video Installations*, was a journey through the development of video as an art–as her work, along with others, defined that development. But she was also in residence to learn–specifically with Wavefront software on the Silicon Graphics Crimson in the ISA studio. Patricia Clark, who manages the studio, and Intermedia graduate student, Gene Cooper shared the role of teacher to the woman who is considered one of the pioneers of video art. Vasulka worked with Wavefront's Composer, manipulating her video imagery using complex computer effects that will eventually become part of an installation.

From Vasulka's multichannel installation *Pyroglyphs*

Pyroglyphs, her multichannel, multi-sensory installation at the Computing Commons Gallery, was a heightened excursion into a blacksmith's environment of fiery images and sounds. After observing the artistan in his studio she choreographed a dance between camera and blow torch–abstracting images of smoke, fire, steel, and sparks. But, Vasulka, who was a musician before she discovered video, was inspired by the sounds of the blacksmith. In her studio, she digitally processed the sounds of metal on metal and the rush of the torch, creating a powerful audio track to accompany the strong images. The installation was co-sponsored by the Institute and Information Technology.