Geomania _ 1986
(A Video Matrix Installation)

"In Geomania, site recorded images and sounds are electronically layered so that the North Atlantic surf washes through Arches National Park, and a bubbling Icelandic hot spring percolates through the desert clouds - a sensuous display of electronically generated color and texture.

There are many paradoxes in this work, not only the paradox between free-form image gathering and very rigorous presentation requirements, and the paradox between the land and the sea, but the real obvious one between an emphasis on technology and romantic beauty. In a way, this work seems to be a sweet autobiographical romance." _ MaLin Wilson

"In Geomania, images wash through the dry desert in ocean waves, the steam and gases of the volatile Icelandic landscape and viscous lava rock unfold on the screen. Here, the landscape is not rooted in gravity, it is amorphous, malleable, and changeable. Embedded with layers of geological time, it is simultaneously death and birth; it transcends time." _ Marita Sturken

"I find beauty always somewhat intimidating. I moved to Santa Fe in 1980 from Buffalo, New York because I wanted to experience what it is to live in beauty. To me, living in the 20th century, nature not altered by man is romantic. Landscape can never be ugly and if you work with landscapes, you eliminate the fathom of ugliness"
I have spent a lot of time thinking about what is beautiful art and what is ugly art, and why artists (often very successfully) engineer certain ugliness into their images: but in the end is it not the ugliness that is meant to intimidate?

I did not expect that working in the Southwest was going to affect my images as much as it did. After all I am an urban product. For

the first two years I resisted it. First of all because the beauty of the West is too seductive, secondly its simply overpowering. I did not feel up to it. I mean, are you going to take on God?" _ Steina

Description:
Geomania is a two video/four audio channel video matrix on a fifteen minute repeated loop. Each of the two video laser disk players provides one video and two audio sources to a bank of video monitors and four speakers. A synchronizer aligns the two channels of video for a synchronous playback. At the end of each 15 minute cycle the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat performance.

Synchronizer:
The Laser Disk Synchronizer used by the Vasulkas is custom built and interfaces with Pioneer Industrial Laser Disk Players (2200 to 8000 series) It is not interchangeable with other manufacturers of laser disk players. [Other brands (Sony, Phillips) require a different (commercially available) synchronizing device.]

The space:
Minimal Active Space (see drawing/floor plan):
?? meters by ?? meters by 3.5 meters high
?? feet by ?? feet by 12 feet high

The major consideration of space is the total avoidance of ambient light. The space should be painted in non-reflective black and no light source other than the one that emanates from monitors themselves should exist. The entrance must be well isolated for light and sound. Most ideal is a double trap door with sound insulating material (see drawing).

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Technical notes for installing, setting up, operating and maintaining the exhibit

Itemized Equipment List for Geomania:

10 Stackable Matching Video Monitors
2 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series
2 Program Video Laser Disks, NTSC, Color
1 Two Channel Synchronizer
2 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (4 audio channels)
4 Speakers (Internal speakers of superior quality may be used).
4 Speakers stands or Wall Mounts
10 video cables ca 3 feet (1 meter) long
2 Pairs of Stereo Cables
4 Speaker Cables
15 Power Outlets

Video Monitors and Monitor Platforms:
The ten (15, 21) monitors must be matching in size and manufacture. They should be stacked in a pyramid fashion on four square platforms one foot (30 cm) high or a single low bench. The dimensions must be custom made to the size and shape of the monitors. The auxiliary equipment (players, amplifiers, synchronizer) should be located inside this platform. The matrix is pyramid configured and wired in the following manner:

```
          1
        1 - 2                1
      2 - 1 - 2            2 - 1                1
    2 - 1 - 2 - 1        2 - 1 - 2            2 - 1
```
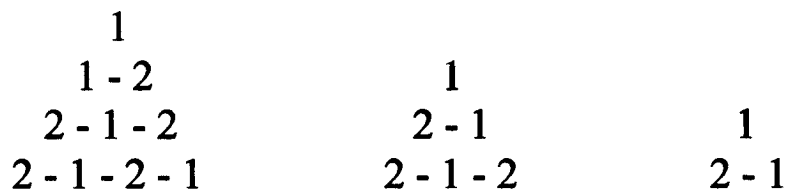
1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1	1 - 2 - 1 - 2	2 - 1 - 2
2 - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1	1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 1	1 - 2 - 1 - 2

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21 monitor matrix, 15 monitor matrix, 10 monitor matrix

The video terminating switches must be open except for the last monitor on each chain.

Audio wiring:
Use internal speakers or connect the two stereo cables from each player to the two amplifiers, and the four speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be hung on the walls at equal distances.

Sound and image alignment (tuning):

Video:
Contrast: maximum
Brightness: half way between minimum and the middle*

Sound:
Treble: normal
Base: maximum

*The basic rule here is to set up the proper and deep color black as a reference to the maximum contrast and brightness. With that the other components (hue, color saturation) can be assigned. But in final the persons installing the environment must use their estethic judgment as to the proper settings and visual impact of the exhibit.

Daily Operations:

Start up:
Power up the Monitors, Disk Players and Synchronizer

Wait a while to verify that the installation is starting synchronously. If not, turn power off and on again for the Players and Synchronizer. If problem persists contact Steina by phone, fax or e-mail.

Shut down:
Turn power off the Monitors, Disk players and Synchronizer

Maintenance:
The monitor screens need to be cleaned with a soft cloth at least once a week

Power requirement (depending on equipment used):

Video monitors:	Sony PVM 1910	120 watts
Stereo Amplifiers:	Technics/Sony	150 watts
Video Disk Players:	Pioneer 2200	70 watts
	Pioneer 8000	100 watts
Synchronizer:	Gritzo 1	40 watts

Outside USA, a Power Transformer 220 to 110, 1000w

Shipping information:

2 program disks, 2 Disk players, 2 Stereo Amps, 1 Sync Box, AC box, all Cables.