

Steina

The West, 1983

2 channel multimonitor video and 4 channel sound installation
color, sound (30 minute cycle)

22 video monitors, 2 videotapes, 2 videotape players, synchronizer

This work was produced using a soft-keyer designed by George Brown.

The sound was composed by Woody Vasulka

San Francisco Museum of Art

Accessions Committee fund: Mimi and Peter Haas, Susan and Robert Green, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Walker, Jr., and Thomas Wiesel

The Vasulkas moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1980. At this time, Steina began to use her machine devices and video techniques to investigate geographical and geological space. In *The West*, she charts the relationship of landscape to time, specifically the ways in which the desert landscape retains within it the imprint of geological time and the remains of civilizations. This work addresses the spectrum of human technologies evident in the desert, from the Very Large Array (VLA) satellite antenna installation to the ruins of the ancient Anasazi Indians— each in its own way a quest to understand the universe. Steina structures this work with both her signature "allvision" mirrored sphere and the visual motif of horizontal drift, which gives the impression that the image is moving sideways onto the next screen. With a sound environment created by Woody, *The West* presents the Southwestern landscape as an ever changing space where past and present converge in the temporal nature of the land, transposed through the electronic image.