## Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX



Elsa and Madelon shooting in the Essex countryside, 1975

photo: Peter Ledward, London

# ELSA STANSFIELD & MADELON HOOYKAAS

## 'Journeys' video work

This project is an exploration and an impression, through video, of three aspects of journeys. We see how technology penetrates into nature and transforms it, from <u>The ploughed</u> <u>earth</u>, to <u>The road</u>, to <u>The city</u>.

People are the threads which link these themes. They migrate as if drawn by a magnet towards the metropolis. In London and in particular the East End, there are many generations of these settlers. They can tell their own story by participating in this project, which will be shown in the very centre of the community where it has been made.

Tape one will relay nature and intervention; tape two, the journey to the East End, and tape three, the stories and experiences of the people who now live here. There will be photographs, relating to the video material, of the people who have participated.



The ploughed earth, 1975





The city, 1975

## Foyer, 23 April - 14 May 1976

## About our work in general

We have repeatedly been exploring particular themes, via the media of video, film and photography. These themes, drawn from everyday life, relate to the perceptions of time and/or space and memory.

The approach and realisation procedures (ways of working) have an interwoven and fundamental influence on our work. We are working towards the presentation of a stimulus (in video and photographs) which relates to the viewer's past/future experience of the subject. This interaction between the stimulus and the viewer/participator becomes, at its best, an event. Using 'Journeys' as an example: part of the material being shown here to the public is itself the result of some reactions to our basic material.

## **Biographies**

#### **Else Madelon Hooykaas**

1942 Born Maartensdijk, The Netherlands

1958-62 Rotterdam Kunst Academie

- 1964-69 Studied, worked and exhibited as a photographer/visual artist in Paris, London, Brussels and America.
- Journeyed through Russia on the Trans-1970 Siberian train and stayed in a Zen Buddhist monastery in Japan.
- 1971 Published a photodiary Zazen.
- Chance meeting with Elsa. They started 1972 working together.
- 1971–72 Made Polaroid photosequences and silk-screens based 'On time' shown at Gale-rie Fiolet, Amsterdam, 1975.

#### **Elsa Stansfield**

- 1945 Born Glasgow
- 1962-65 Glasgow School of Art
- 1965 Migrated south
- 1965-67 Ealing Technical College, School of Art and Photography
- 1968-70 Postgraduate studies, Slade School of Fine Art, Film Department
- 1970-72 Started the conversion of first warehouse to studio, whilst working in different capacities on various films.
- 1972 Began working on projects with Madelon. The partnership was called 'White Bird'.
- 1975 Moved studio to Wapping warehouse. Awarded a GLAA fellowship for film/video research with the Slade School of Fine Art, Film Department.

Both are continually travelling between Amsterdam and London and consequently are obsessed by journeys.







## Film and video works since 1972

#### Daydreams, 1972

8-minute experiment in colour and black & white film. Shown privately in Amsterdam and London.

#### One of these days, 1973

30-minute film - Nederlands Omroep Stichting (Netherlands TV), 1973; London Film Festival, 1973; Cork Film Festival, 1974.

#### A film for Pandora, 1974

15-minute fragment of a larger work (to be realised).

About bridges, 1975 22-minute film - Sveriges Radio (Swedish TV), 1975; Film International Rotterdam, 1975; 4eme Festival International du film de court métrage et du film documentaire, Maison de la Culture, Grenoble, 1975; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, 1975.

#### Moving, 1975

video tapes and photographs of the white room. For the opening of the White Bird studio, Wapping - Open Space (Studios), London, 1975.

#### What's it to you?, 1975

2 monitor video event with photographs and participation - Third Eye Centre, Glasgow, 1975; Scottish video symposium, Glasgow Film Theatre, 1976.

Memory, 1975

a series of video/film research tapes - Slade School of Fine Art, London, 1976; Architectural Association, London, 1976.

## **Bibliography**

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Elsa Stansfield. 'From Dream to "memory"'. Film Video Extra, no 5, Greater London Arts, winter 1975, pp 14-15.

Willem K Coumans. 'De tijdmachine van Else Madelon Hooykaas'. Foto, vol 31 no 1, Amersfoort, January 1976, DD 23-25.



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From Memory, 1975