

# Style Makers

## Anne Wilson and Marty St. James

VIDEO PORTRAIT ARTISTS

LONDON — "Hel-lo, cheeky," says the actress Julie Walters, whose moving and talking head is framed in gilt on the walls of England's National Portrait Gallery. "You come 'ere often?"

It is one of three "video portraits" on exhibit at the gallery until Jan. 27 that were created by Marty St. James, 36 years old, and Anne Wilson, 35, former performance artists and fine-arts graduates from the Cardiff College of Art in Wales.

The other video portraits are of the British Olympic gold-medal swimmer Duncan Goodhew and the British opera singer Sally Burgess.

Video portraiture, they say, is not simply a matter of producing videos, but of using the most modern medium available — videotape — to extend one aspect of the fine arts.

"We've tried in a sense to reinvent portraiture, which we think has gotten very boring and stale over the years," Mr. St. James said. "One of the last people to try to do that, we think, was Andy Warhol."

The artists said they viewed video portraiture as a perfect means of portraying those peo-



Jonathan Player for The New York Times

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ple whose essence might be lost in a static and silent conventional portrait.

Ms. Wilson said, for instance, "It's a travesty to do a portrait of an opera singer that has no sound."

In January, they will travel to Canada, where they will be artists-in-residence at Gallery 101 in Ottawa for one month. There they are

to create a video portrait of a Native American. The two are also producing miniature video portraits for those who want to move their personal art collections into the late 20th century.

"As Marty always says," Ms. Wilson said, "if Rembrandt was alive today, he'd be making videos."

SUZANNE CASSIDY