

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE - Programme Notes

THE NEW AVANT-GARDE

VIDEO II: IIMURA/DE WITT/VASULKAS/VAN SCHLEY/DONABAUER

Although videotape has been more closely associated with community politics, and increasing number of artists have been experimenting with the medium. This programme includes work by a few of these artists.

WAR and ROB ROY by Tom DeWitt (10 mins, col, 525 lines NTSC) are two works in progress. DeWitt - who worked with Scott Bartlett on one of the first videographic films (OFF ON) - has been experimenting over the past few years with video mime. These two pieces were made in association with the TV Laboratory at WNET in New York. DeWitt's videographic film FALL (1968) is one of the richest examples of video as a creative tool.

A CHAIR and BLINKING by Taka Iimura (28 mins, b&w, 525 lines) are two conceptual arts pieces by this Japanese artist who has been working in Germany. Iimura's work follows the traditions of constructivism, of rational and structural assemblies. Iimura appears as one of the most clear thinking representatives of this art with a special talent for reducing things to their basic elementary forms. Wolfgang Kahlcke in DIE WELT. Two pieces show a video image of a chair with its shadow, and a face with blinking eyes in positive and negative.

GOLDEN VOYAGE by Steena and Woody Vasulka (29 mins, col, 525 lines NTSC) was inspired by one of Magritte's paintings and utilises some of the image overlay facilities that video has made possible. The Vasulkas are amongst the best known videographic artists working in the U.S.A. and they are artists in residence at the Media Centre, State University of New York at Buffalo.

LA AIRPORT by Van Schley (8 mins, b&w, 525 lines) is a drive through LA airport with the sound-track provided by the local radio station provided for airport visitors. Van Schley is self-styled 'leisure artist'.

ENTERING by Peter Donabauer (10 mins, col, 625 lines, PAL) is a videographic experiment created in close connection with the sound source. Made as a live piece and shown on BBC's Second House by Donabauer shortly after leaving the Royal College of Arts where he had been a student in the Film and TV Department.

- note supplied by Twenty Four Frames -

Video Equipment Installed by Crown Cassette Communications Ltd.,
with special thanks to John Lewell.
