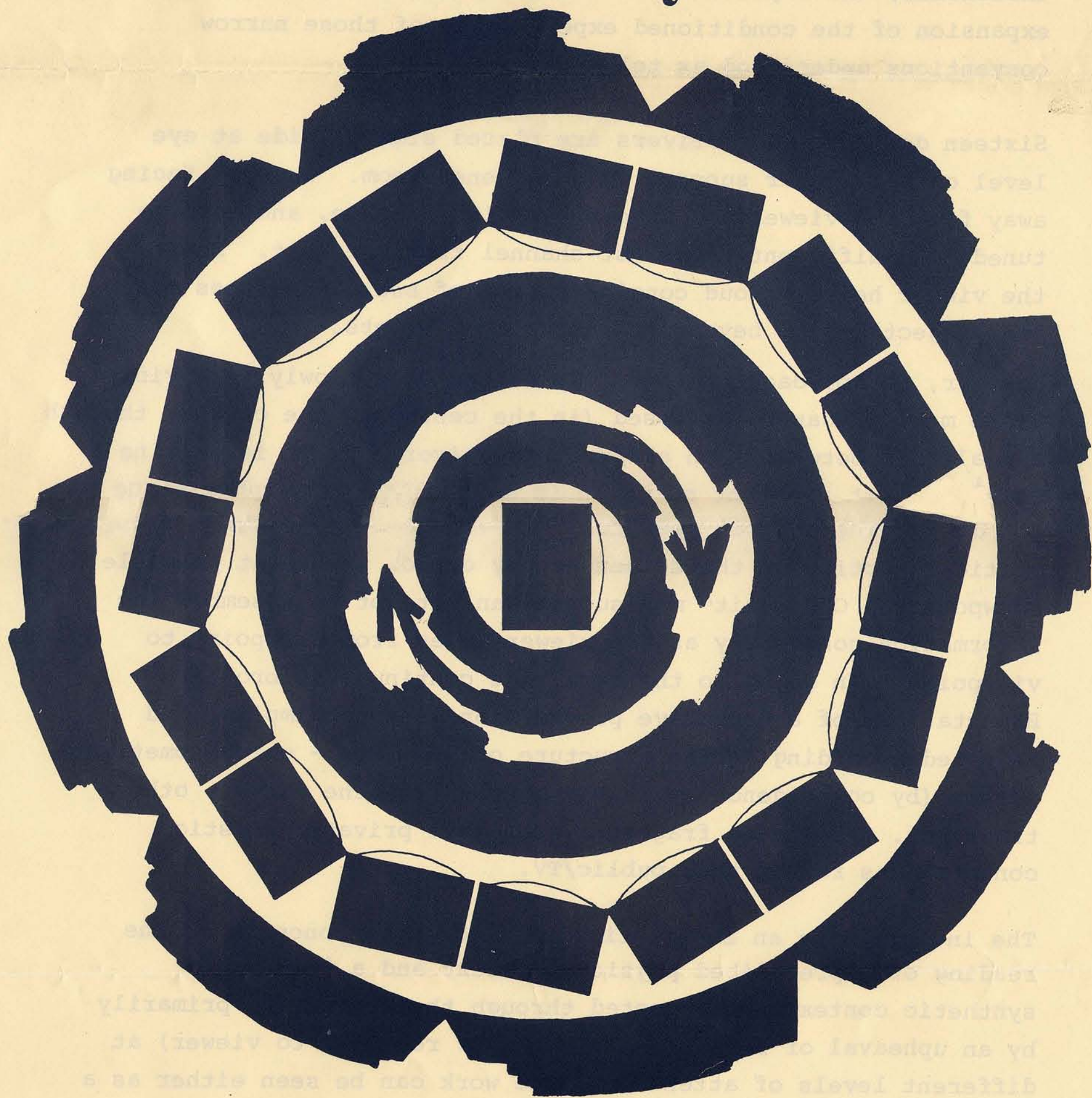


A Situation Envisaged: The Rite 1980

A Video Installation by David Hall



October 11-26

Sponsored by Visionhire

SHP

South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire. Bracknell (0344) 27272.

Video as art largely seeks to explore perceptual and conceptual thresholds, and implicit in this is the decoding and consequent expansion of the conditioned expectations of those narrow conventions understood as television.

Sixteen domestic TV receivers are placed side by side at eye level on a circular support in a darkened room. Each is facing away from the viewer and into the enclosed space, and each is tuned to a different broadcast channel from the next. Hence the viewer hears a loud conglomeration of sound, and sees only the projected glow beyond and above the TV sets.

However, on approaching them, the screen of a slowly revolving video monitor can be glimpsed (in the centre of the circle) through a small gap between each alternate receiver. On it is playing a videotape, the content of which is difficult to decipher since the gap is so fine that it restricts the visual field to only a narrow vertical section of the screen at any one of the eight possible viewpoints. Curiosity may suggest an attempt to assemble the information coherently as the viewer moves from viewpoint to viewpoint. In doing so the tape time continuum is broken. Expectations of a narrative progression are both implied and rejected according to the structure of the tape - which sometimes phases (by coincidence) with the movement of the viewer, other times not. The image fragments seen have private/domestic connotations rather than public/TV.

The intention is an exploration of time/space concepts in the reading of a prescribed physical context and a 'removed' synthetic context as presented through the TV medium, primarily by an upheaval or reversal of roles (TV relative to viewer) at different levels of attention. The work can be seen either as a number of distinct parallels, or as a complex of all.