

'This piece' would like to travel
any ideas? I enjoyed your charming time show
Yours Elsa

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STANSFIELD / HOOYKAAS

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POINT OF ORIENTATION 1986
from the museum of memory III
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Elsa Stansfield and Madelon Hooykaas are using the idea of a 'museum of memory' as link between a series of video installations, which are concerned with various immaterial qualities of memory and the media video and sound. In each of these works the subject varies whilst the process/method of realization is similar.

'Point of orientation' is the third work in this series and deals with aspects of the memory of a place 'the north'.

The first work was concerned with some residues from the atom bomb which fell on Hiroshima, namely an image of the mutilated shell of a bronze Buddha. The second work 'Shadow Pictures' continued this subject and made use of X-ray images and the burnt in shadows from the atomic flash.

Hooykaas/Stansfield's way of working is based on making journeys, to collect audio and video material on location and later, here in Amsterdam, this material is re-worked to form an installation.

'Point of orientation' is composed out of three elements: a video image on a small monitor, a large videoprojection and a 4 channel soundtrack.

The ceaseless cascade of a waterfall on the monitor seems initially to act as a constant within the installation. The projection is more complex, as various images dissolve through each other to form an illusory landscape somewhere between dream, reality and memory: birds fly across the pages of an atlas, hands leaf through the countryside, swaying grasses take on grid like textures whilst mountains devide...

The soundtrack is composed with 2 channels of ambient sounds and low tones which correspond with the video whilst the other 2 channels carry the more sharply accentuated sounds deriving from metal and swans in flight.

The audio steering device is triggered by the movement of a viewer in the installation, who has walked through one of the four infra-red beams and this causes the sound to pan 45 east or west after which it returns to its original position. This spacial movement of the sound in the installation is like a metaphor for the compass needle as it seeks out its direction.

Through concentration on some of the natural forces in landscape which in content have parallels in the media video and sound (ie. magnetism) and through carefull and selective searching for new forms which often have a medative quality, Madelon Hooykaas and Elsa Stansfield's memory of a journey to the 'north' has become within the body of their work a point of orientation.

Dorine Mignot

2 video tapes colour/sound, 1 video monitor, 1 video projector, 4 infra-red transmitters, 1 infra-red receiver, 1 sound steering unit.

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