

## MARTY ST.JAMES & ANNE WILSON.

Marty St.James & Anne Wilson have worked together since 1982 in the areas of live performance and video. Their performances have played to audiences throughout Britain, Canada and the USA, and their video's have been screened in festivals in France, Spain, Japan, Australia, Germany and North America . In 1989 they presented 'Hotel' a large scale installation work at the AIR Gallery in London, complete with a video shower and video lift Their videotape 'Hotel' commissioned by Channel 4 was broadcast recently on British Television as part of 'The Dazzling Image' series. Other video works have been broadcast worldwide , including 'Heartbeat' their contribution to TIMECODE the international video art programme, shown in seven different countries.

More recently St.James and Wilson have been producing a series of video pieces called 'Video Portraits' seen at the National Portrait Gallery, Camden Arts Centre, Germany, Holland and in Canada.

These works combine their interest and concern with both live performance and the electronic image. These are individual portraits of people framed within a traditional ornate picture frame but instead of a static painting here is a moving video portrait of the person, gesticulating, blinking and in motion before the spectators eyes.

Each portrait is researched, designed and constructed with that particular person in mind to create an individual, obsessive and intimate study of a living face capable of speaking and generating sound.

For example:

'Laughing Portrait'. Framed in an ornate gilt frame this incessant study of a laughing woman pivots between the humourous and the sinister as it laughs and sniggers its way through an endlessly repeated cycle.Sitter; Cynthia Odogwu.

'Running Woman'. Video portrait of Paula Dunn, British 100 metres champion. This is a study of an athlete and her never ceasing battle against the stop watch and her personal time of 11 seconds.(Commissioned by Manchester Olympic Festival and The Cornerhouse Gallery).

'The Twin'. Barry and Donovan are brothers. Barry and Donovan are twins. Barry and Donovan are one in a million, because Barry is white and Donovan is black. This is a portrait of them both and their relationship as twins.

'Crying Woman'. Images of grief range from the idealised teardrop to the complete dismemberment of the human face, as in Picassos weeping Woman. Both aspects are here sobbing, moving, crying, in a study that reveals how close laughter is to tears. Sitter; Geraldine Pilgrim.

"Marty St. James and Anne Wilson's video portraits leave nothing and everything to the imagination. Just as their previous presentations of the quintessential hotel and the ultimate romantic encounter confirmed that fantasy and reality interchange and exist in the eye of the beholder, so their all seeing portraits reveal as much about their viewers as their sitters."

Louisa Buck. 1990.

PORTRAIT OF SHOBANA JEYASINGH. 1990.  
Bharatha classical dancer. Marty St. James and Anne Wilson.

A 14 monitor Video Portrait of Shobana Jeyasingh. Commissioned by the London Borough of Camden, for the 'Viewing Figures' Exhibition at Camden Arts Centre and the Harris Museum Preston.

A Multi-Monitor video portrait consisting of 14 separate video monitors fed by 14 separate video sources enabling a choreography of image to occur which is quite different from the single monitor portraits. Each of the monitors is housed in a wooden cabinet projecting from the wall, appearing as a series of apparently weightless electronic images placed within a cruciform configuration.

'The Swimmer' 1990. Marty St. James and Anne Wilson.

An 11 monitor Video Portrait of the Olympic Gold Medalist Duncan Goodhew. Commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery, London for St. James / Wilsons exhibition 'Video Portraits' 90/91. The piece is now one of three video portraits now in the collection.

FOR COMPLETE LIST OF PORTRAITS AVAILABLE PLEASE SEE VIDEOGRAPHY.