INSTALLATION 8x8x8

THE INTEGRAL PART OF MY INSTALLATION IS THE AUTOMATIC VIDEO SWITCHER (AVS). THIS IS A PIECE OF VIDEO HARDWARE WHICH I DEVISED AND WHICH HOWARD VIE HAS DEVELOPED AND BUILT OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

THE AVS HAS EIGHT INPUTS AND OUTPUTS. THE CAMERA INPUTS ARE SELECTED BY ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING. THE PROGRAMME IS RECORDED ONTO SOUND TAPE BY USING A MULTIPLEX ENCODER WHICH LAYS DOWN A COMMAND TONE FOR EACH CAMERA INPUT. THESE ARE SUBSEQUENTLY DECODED WHEN THE INSTALLATION IS IN OPERATION, AND FED TO THE AVS WHICH SELECTS THE APPROPRIATE CAMERA INPUT(S). ANY NUMBER OF CAMERAS CAN BE SELECTED AT ANY ONE TIME AND THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN SELECTIONS CAN BE ANYTHING FROM A FRACTION OF A SECOND TO SEVERAL HOURS. THIS SYSTEM MEANS THAT I COMPOSE IN TIME.

THERE IS A 64-WAY MATRIX BETWEEN THE INPUTS AND OUTPUTS SO THAT ANY CAMERA OR NUMBER OF CAMERAS CAN BE CHOSEN TO FEED ANY MONITOR OR NUMBER OF MONITORS GIVING A FLEXIBLE CONTROL OVER SPACE.

USING THIS MACHINE TIME AND SPACE CAN BE MANIPULATED WITHIN A STRUCTURED AND PROGRAMMED FORMAT AND THE NUMBER OF PERMUTATIONS VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS. FOR THIS PARTICULAR INSTALLATION ANOTHER DIMENSION IS ADDED, THAT OF SOUND. THE ACTUAL CONTROL PULSES ON THE PROGRAMME TAPE ARE MADE AUDIBLE THERBY ECHOING THE SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE 8 MINUTE CYCLIC DURATION OF THE TAPE LOOP.

STEVE PARTRIDGE MAY 1976