

Disintergrating Forms  
Installation for 8 monitors

30 minutes

Black and white            silent  
The Video Show-Tate Gallery 1976

In the autumn of 1975, I shot several tapes of 'clouds'. The tapes were shot in real time and once again unedited. I chose 30 minutes of tape for Disintergrating Forms. A recording of the clearing of an overcast sky giving the illusion at the end of the programme that the screen was completely clear, in other words that there was no picture on the screen. The programme demanded extreme attention on the part of the viewer to extract even this amount of information. The programme was put through eight monitors simultaneously, mounted on plynths standing 14' to 4' off the ground. The room was in total darkness giving the impression that the screens were suspended in space. The box shapes of the TV sets were not evident. The illusion that the screen cleared completely made the viewer even more aware of the presence of the screen and in attempting to 'suspend' the screens in the air, I was hoping to refer back to the original concept of the piece, that TV information comes to us through space!

At the last minute before installing this work, I realised that a camera on the roof of the Tate could have relayed the changing cloud conditions live. However, this proved technically hazardous and the work would have been entirely different—in colour and failing to capture those rather unique weather conditions.