



eye to eye

Two installations by Tamara Krikorian

The Fruit Market Gallery 29 Market Street, Edinburgh

Exhibition 20 October - 17 November 1979

The Scottish Arts Council

Tamara Krikorian has based her recent work in relation to the ephemeral nature of television on certain 16th and 17th century 'vanitas' paintings in which butterflies, bubbles and other still life objects appear as symbols of transience. In several of these paintings the artist's own self portrait appears as a 'vanitas' emblem alongside personal objects and tools.

The two installations, **Vanitas or An Illusion of Reality** and **Tableau** employ not only video but mirrors and actual still life objects to explore various aspects of broadcast television, but with particular reference to the television newscaster as the archetypal portrait figure — the 20th century equivalent of an icon or household god. In other words a figure of re-assurance — a mediator.

In addition, questions are asked about the nature of the medium in terms of screen surface, horizontal lines and the box nature of the television monitor and how this in its turn affects the actual presentation and content of broadcasting. There is also an attempt to compare the formal elements of one medium to another, for example television to film, film to photography, and photography to painting.

Tamara Krikorian has been working with video since 1973 and has taken part in numerous exhibitions both in Britain and abroad. An installation entitled '**An Ephemeral Art**' was shown at the Third Eye Centre, Glasgow in April and forms part of a series of works based on the 'Vanitas' theme.

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