

PROJECTS: VIDEO III

Video tapes made during the past decade by seven artists with different approaches to the medium are being shown daily through April 30 in the auditorium gallery of The Museum of Modern Art. "Several of the artists," according to Barbara London, Curatorial Assistant who selected the tapes, "have investigated the unique technical properties of video, such as unstable images, phasing and audio tracking. Others are interested in the capacity of the medium to document movement and sound. Potentially painful actions, repetition of a simple phrase with altered intonation and gesture, exploration of space through motion, and reciprocal behavior in performance are some of the activities which have been explored in these works." The artists represented in PROJECTS: VIDEO III are John Baldessari, Peter Campus, Dan Graham, Joan Jonas, Bruce Nauman, Dennis Oppenheim and Nam June Paik.

Nam June Paik is a pioneer video artist. His Lindsay Tape, several seconds from John Lindsay's first press conference as mayor of New York, was shot in 1965 and first shown on a unique loop device constructed by Paik. He re-edited the tape last year at the WNET labs and the result is a short sequence from the press conference, repeated over and over, with the audio and visual running out of phase. The effect of the repetition and disjunctions of sound and image is to undercut the image of a popular figure.

Bruce Nauman's Lip Sync, made in 1969, also has an audio track which runs in and out of phase with the visual. The image is the artist's head, shown upside down and wearing earphones through which he hears the words "lip sync." Nauman attempts to repeat the words as he hears them on the earphones. Both the performance aspect of this piece and its Duchampian literalization of a familiar phrase are typical of Nauman's work from this period.

In Aspen I, Dennis Oppenheim records potentially painful actions, such as the

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rubbing of his hand over splintered wood or the balancing of pieces of glass on his outstretched fingers. John Baldessari's tape parodies "body art." The image shows the artist in an empty studio, moving and gesturing in a deadpan manner while repeating the phrase "I am making art."

Peter Campus, in Double Vision, explores various spatial potentials inside his sunlit studio by moving between two stationary cameras. Dan Graham's tape documents a performance in which two people acquainted with each other are in the same space. While one predicts the future behavior of the other, the other recalls the past behavior of the one predicting the future. Joan Jonas' Vertical Roll uses a technical feature of video -- the vertical roll resulting from two out-of-sync frequencies -- as a structural element of a tape also using images and various actions performed by the artist.

The Museum began its presentation of artists' video tapes in September 1974 as part of its continuing PROJECTS series devoted to recent developments in art. Artists whose tapes have been shown in previous programs are Vito Acconci, Linda Benglis, Robert Morris, Richard Serra, Keith Sonnier, William Wegman, Joseph Beuys, Ulrike Rosenbach, Rebecca Horn, and Gilbert and George.

The Museum of Modern Art gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The schedule follows:

PROGRAM A, Monday and Thursday, 11 to 2 pm
 Dan Graham, Past Future Split Attention. 1972. Black and white, 20 min.
 Dennis Oppenheim, Aspen I. 1970. Color, 25 min.

PROGRAM B, Tuesday and Saturday, 11 to 2 pm
 Peter Campus, Double Vision. 1971. Black and white, 20 min.
 Nam June Paik, The Lindsay Tape. 1965-74. Black and white, 4 1/2 min.

PROGRAM C, Wednesday and Friday, 11 to 2 pm
 John Baldessari, I am Making Art. 1971. Black and white, 30 min.
 Joan Jonas, Vertical Roll. 1972. Black and white, 20 min.

PROGRAM D, Sunday, 12 to 2 pm
 Bruce Nauman, Lip Sync. 1969. Black and white, 60 min.

 Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7296; 7501.
