

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel: 212-708-9400 Cable: MODERNART Telex: 62370 MODART ENTRANCE AT 18 W. 54

#6
for immediate release

January '83

TERRITORIES: INSTALLATION AT MoMA

The process of observing is a process of thinking...
the eye is what brings about thoughts, as a result of
encounters between the world of objects and the world
consisting of experiences and associations personal to
every one of us.
-Serge Spitzer

TERRITORIES, an installation piece by Serge Spitzer, confronts questions of perception and space in a closed environment. The installation will occupy MoMA's Video Gallery from January 31 through March 8, 1983.

Spitzer, a Bucharest-born artist who has lived in Jerusalem since 1972, has had numerous exhibitions in Israel and Europe. The MoMA installation continues explorations which are described by Ygal Zalmona, Curator of The Israel Museum:

The experience of boundaries involves an attempt at mapping and defining. It is the experience of identity, of discerning between outer and inner -- of human perception and comprehension.

The physical construct of TERRITORIES is simple: it consists of a platform, a single spotlight, and a large projected slide of a partial view of the artist's peering face, arranged within the small gallery. The projector's fan is the only constant sound source.

The installation's darkness, the closed space and obstruction of vision created by the low overhead platform, and the action of regarding the artist's projected stare contribute to a vaguely threatening environment to which each viewer reacts.

"TERRITORIES is about the act of surveillance" according to Barbara London, who directs MoMA's Video Program and organized the exhibition. "The elements are all presented in partial obscurity so that the viewer has the feeling of observing and being observed, much in the same way that a periscope functions."

Serge Spitzer designs his work for a specific exhibition site. It is Spitzer's "territory" inasmuch as the environment is created by the artist and dominated by the artist's eyes; yet it is also the territory
cont'd...

page two .

TERRITORIES AT MoMA

of the viewer, who brings the animate and reactive element to the piece.

TERRITORIES is presented by MoMA's Video Program, with special assistance from the American-Israel Cultural Foundation. The Video Program is made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

#

For information the public may call MoMA: (212) 708-9400.

* * * * *
For further information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, (212) 708-9752, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019.

* * * * *