

# THE WEST 1983

## A VIDEO MATRIX INSTALLATION BY STEINA

AUDIO BY WOODY VASULKA

*THE WEST* revels in the vastness of the western spaces, the primeval quality of the landscape and ancient architecture, the rich colors of the earth and sky, and the all-encompassing light and warmth of the sun. The complex layering of spaces and the electronic manipulation of image, color, and form so central in Steina's earlier work is still an important aspect of this installation. But *THE WEST* is emphatically a tribute to the grandeur of nature.

— WILLIAM D. JUDSON, CURATOR, CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART, PITTSBURGH



### DESCRIPTION

THE WEST is a two video, four audio channel installation with thirty minutes of repeating program. Each of the two video laser disk players provides one video and two audio sources to a bank of video monitors and four speakers. A video synchronizer aligns the two channels of video for synchronous playback. At the end of each thirty-minute cycle, the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat performance.

### THE SPACE

The minimum active space required is 10 meters by 7.5 meters by 3.5 meters high, or 35 feet by 25 feet by 12 feet high. The major consideration in terms of space is the total avoidance of ambient light. The space should be painted a non-reflective black and no light source should exist, other than the one that emanates from the monitors themselves. The entrance must be well insulated from light and sound. Most ideal is a double trap door with sound insulating material. There should be a bench seating 4–5 people. (See floor plan and entrance diagrams.)

**E Q U I P M E N T**

The Vasulkas can provide all the equipment listed below, or share resources with the exhibitor. This will be reflected in both shipping and equipment budgets.

- 22 stackable matching video monitors
- 11 monitor support platforms
- 2 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series
- 2 program video laser disks, NTSC, color
- 1 two-channel synchronizer
- 2 stereo audio amplifiers (4 audio channels)
- 4 speakers
- 4 speaker stands or wall mounts
- 22 video cables aprox. 3 feet (1 meter) long
- 2 pairs of stereo cables
- 4 speaker cables
- 27 power outlets

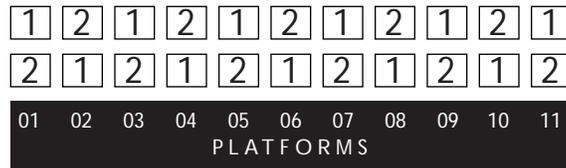
NOTE: The laser disk synchronizer used by the Vasulkas is custom built and interfaces only with Pioneer Industrial Laser Disk Players (2200 to 8000 Series). It is not interchangeable with laser disk players from other manufacturers, such as Sony and Phillips, which require a commercially available synchronizing device.

**V I D E O M O N I T O R S A N D M O N I T O R P L A T F O R M S**

The 22 monitors must be matching in size and manufacture. They should be stacked in pairs two rows high, eleven pairs on eleven separate platforms. The individual platforms are two feet high and layed out in a curve (see floor plan). As to depth and width, the platforms must be custom-made to the size and shape of the monitors. All of the auxilliary equipment, such as players, amplifiers, and synchronizer should be located inside the back of these platforms.

**M O N I T O R M A T R I X W I R I N G**

The following diagram shows the wiring sequence for the monitor matrix.



**A U D I O W I R I N G**

Connect the pair of stereo cables from each player to the two (stereo) amplifiers, and the four speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be placed or hung on the walls in the four corners of the room.

**S O U N D A N D I M A G E A D J U S T M E N T**

Treble should be normal and bass at maximum. All 75 ohm terminators located on the back of the monitors must be switched to open, except for the last monitor on each chain. Contrast should be high and brightness below middle. The basic rule here is to set up the proper deep color black as a reference to the maximum contrast and brightness. With that, the other components (hue, color saturation) can be assigned. The persons installing the environment must use their esthetic judgment as to the proper monitor settings for maximum visual impact.

**DAILY OPERATIONS**

**TO START:** Power up the monitors, disk players, and synchronizer. Wait a short while to verify that the installation is starting synchronously. If not, turn power off and on again for the players and the synchronizer. If problem persists, notify Steina by phone, fax, or e-mail.

**TO SHUT DOWN:** Turn off power to the monitors, disk players, and synchronizer.

**MAINTENANCE:** The monitor screens need to be cleaned with a soft cloth at least once a week.

**POWER REQUIREMENTS**

(depending on equipment used)

Video monitors:	Sony PVM 1910	120 watts
Stereo amplifiers:		150 watts
Video disk players:	Pioneer 2200	70 watts
	Pioneer 8000	100 watts
Synchronizer:	Jericho Data Systems	40 watts

NOTE: Outside USA, use a power transformer 220 to 110, 1000w.

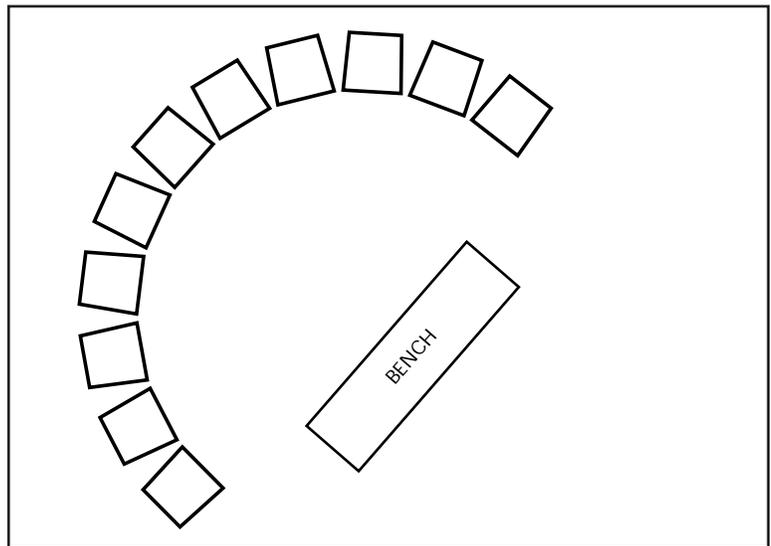
**SHIPPING INFORMATION**

Installation is shipped in one crate. Weight and dimensions available upon request.

Shipped to and from:

**Steina and Woody Vasulka**  
 Route 6, Box 100  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
 ph: 505-424-8786  
 fx: 505-473-0614  
 email: woodyv@santafe.edu

FLOOR PLAN



Suggested floor plan subject to change according to the proportions of the exhibition space.

LIGHT-TRAP / SOUND-TRAP ENTRANCES

