

GEOMANIA 1987

A VIDEO MATRIX INSTALLATION BY STEINA

In GEOMANIA, site recorded images and sounds are electronically layered so that the North Atlantic surf washes through Arches National Park, and a bubbling Icelandic hot spring percolates through the desert clouds — a sensuous display of electronically generated color and texture.

There are many paradoxes in this work, not only the paradox between free-form image gathering and very rigorous presentation requirements, and the paradox between the land and the sea, but the real obvious one between an emphasis on technology and romantic beauty. In a way, this work seems to be a sweet autobiographical romance.

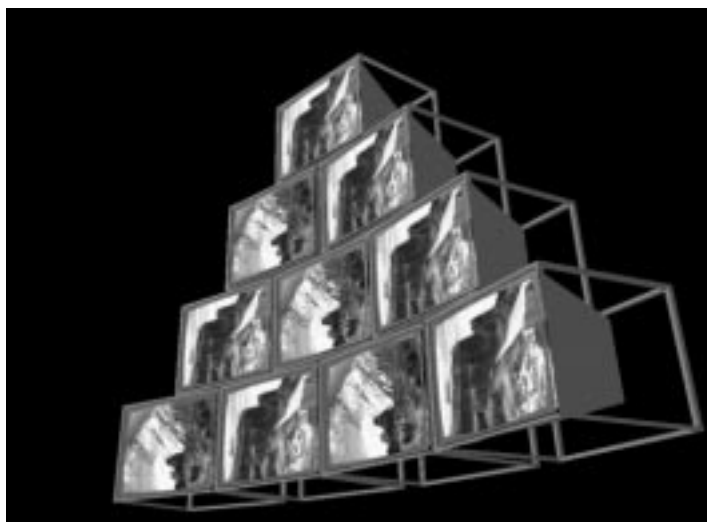
— MALIN WILSON, WRITER AND CURATOR

In GEOMANIA, images wash through the dry desert in ocean waves, the steam and gases of the volatile Icelandic landscape and viscous lava rock unfold on the screen. Here, the landscape is not rooted in gravity, it is amorphous, malleable, and changeable. Embedded with layers of geological time, it is simultaneously death and birth; it transcends time.

— MARITA STURKEN, WRITER AND CURATOR

STEINA: "I find beauty always somewhat intimidating. I moved to Santa Fe in 1980 from Buffalo, New York because I wanted to experience what it is to live in beauty. To me, living in the 20th century, nature not altered by man is romantic.

I did not expect that working in the Southwest was going to affect my images as much as it did. After all I am an urban product. For the first two years I resisted it. First of all because the beauty of the West is too seductive, secondly it's simply overpowering. I did not feel up to it. I mean, are you going to take on God?"



DESCRIPTION

GEOMANIA is a two video/four audio channel video matrix on a 15-minute repeating loop. 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 synchronizer aligns the two channels of video for a synchronous playback. At the end of each 15-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 monitors themselves. Also include a low bench seating four or five people. The entrance must be well insulated from light and sound. Most ideal is a double trap door with sound insulating material. (See entrance diagram.)

EQUIPMENT

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.

- 10 stackable matching video monitors
- 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 (internal speakers of superior quality may be used)
- 4 speakers stands or wall mounts
- 10 video cables approx. 3 feet (1 meter) long each
- 2 pairs of stereo cables
- 4 speaker cables
- 15 power outlets

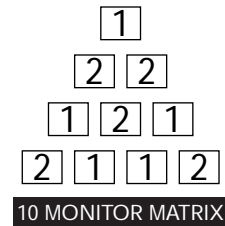
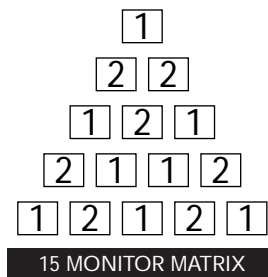
NOTE: The laser disk synchronizer used by the Vasulkas is custom built and interfaces only with Pioneer Industrial Laser Disk Players (2200 to 8000 Series). It is not interchangeable with laser disk players from other manufacturers, such as Sony and Phillips, which require a commercially available synchronizing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

VIDEO MONITORS AND MONITOR PLATFORMS

The ten (15, 21) monitors must be matching in size and manufacture. They should be stacked in a pyramid fashion on four square platforms one foot (30 cm) high or a single low bench. The platforms must be custom-made to the size and shape of the monitors. The auxiliary equipment (players, amplifiers, synchronizer) should be located inside these platforms.

MONITOR MATRIX WIRING

The matrix is pyramid configured and wired in the following manner.



AUDIO WIRING

Use internal speakers or connect the two stereo cables from each player to the two amplifiers, and the four speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be hung on the walls at equal distances.

SOUND AND IMAGE ADJUSTMENT

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 while to verify that the installation is starting synchronously. If not, turn power off and on again for the players and synchronizer. If problem persists, contact Steina by phone, fax, or e-mail.

TO SHUT DOWN: Turn power off 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
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