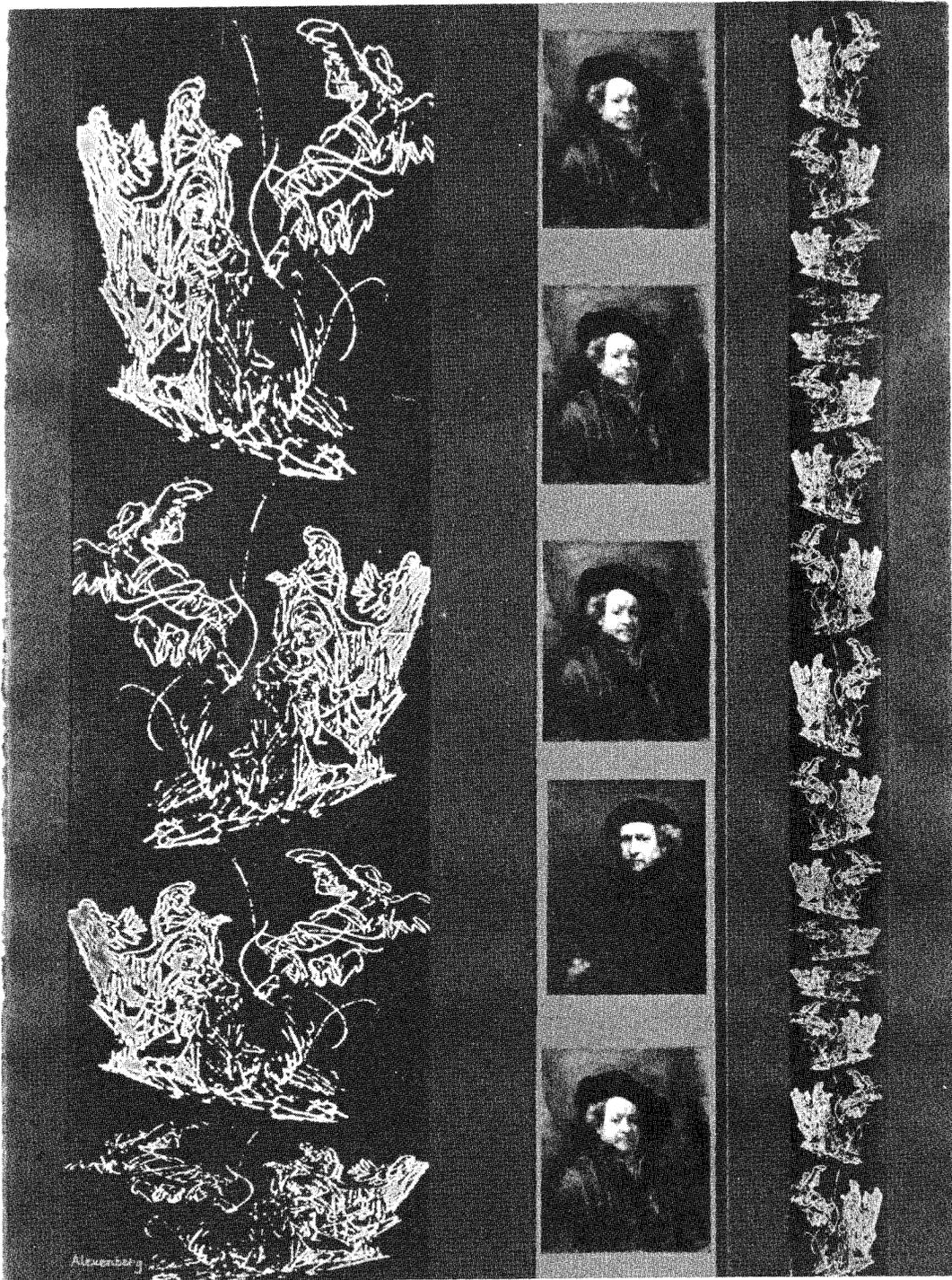


MEL ALEXENBERG COMPUTER ANGELS



NOVEMBER 24 · DECEMBER 24, 1987

**THE FINE ARTS CENTER ART GALLERY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK**

STEINA AND WOODY VASULKA: THE WEST

"The West," a six screen video installation by Steina and Woody Vasulka, is a 30-minute piece which runs continuously. It employs state-of-the-art video technology, yet is lyrical in its imagery. Since its premiere in Albuquerque in May, 1984, "The West" has been seen in New York City, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles, and at video centers and festivals in Spain, Switzerland, Iceland, and France. The piece was originally produced by Programs in the Arts of the State University of New York for SUNY/The Arts on Television.

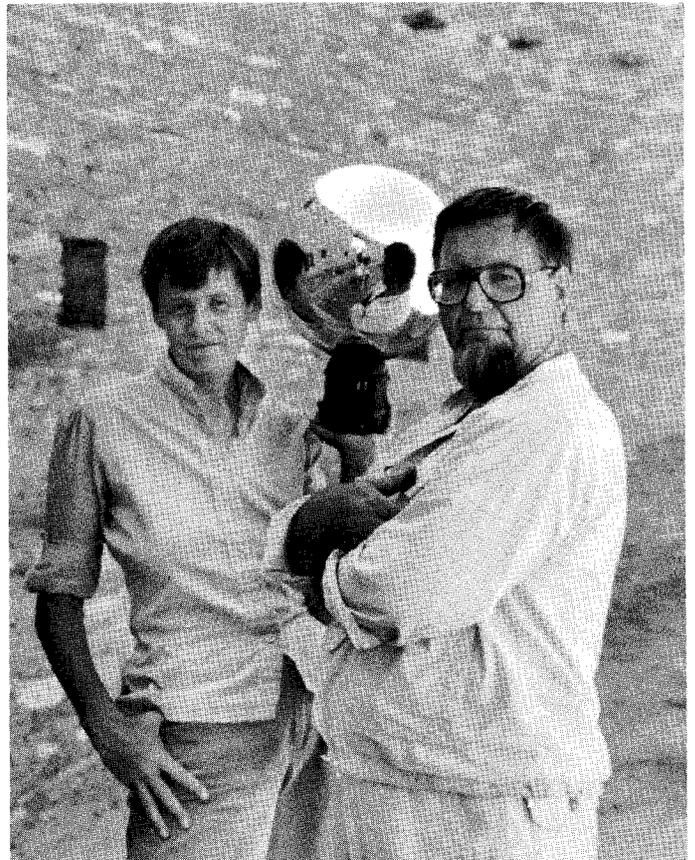
In "The West," video artists Steina and Woody Vasulka explore the ancient and contemporary records of mankind's actions on the desert landscape. Steina's camera has recorded the ceremonial sites of Chaco Canyon, home of the ancient Anasazi people, ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians; the ruins of a Spanish church at Quarai; and New Mexico's VLA (Very Large Array) radio-telescope system. With Steina's mechanized camera and spinning mirrors, and with highly saturated golds and blues, the imagery is in constant, stately motion. Woody created the four-channel audio environment and assisted with production and instrumentation.

In describing the inspiration of her work, Steina says, "In no other region of the country does the presence of the sun play such a significant role in the ecology of the land — arid and eroded, with an exceptional clarity of the bright skies — forming notions of extra-terrestrial importance in the minds of its inhabitants. The landscape, by its dimension and by its geometric and textural variety, inspires man to create harmonious structures, dwellings, and other earth works."

Steina was born in Iceland in 1940 and attended the Music Conservatory in Prague. She came to the United States in 1965 and has been a seminal force in the development of the electronic arts since 1970. She and her husband, Woody, are co-founders of "The Kitchen," an experimental video center in New York City. Her tapes have been exhibited and broadcast extensively in the United States and Europe. She was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1967 and has, with her husband, received grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Woody Vasulka was born in Czechoslovakia where he studied metal technologies, hydraulic mechanics, and the arts. He emigrated to the United States in 1965, and in 1967 began experiments with electronic sounds, stroboscopic lights and, two years later, with video. In 1974, he became a faculty member of the Center for Media Study at the State University of New York at Buffalo and began his investigations into computer controlled video, building "The Vasulka Imaging System," a personal imaging facility. Like Steina, he has been a Guggenheim Fellow.

Back cover: Steina Vasulka, *The West*, 1984, detail from video installation



Steina and Woody Vasulka in Kiva Rindonada, Chaco, New Mexico during the shooting of *The West* in 1983.

The West
Created by: Steina Vasulka

Instrumentation and production assistance:
Woody Vasulka

Four-channel audio environment:
Woody Vasulka

Produced by Programs in the Arts
of The State University of New York
for SUNY/The Arts on Television

With funds from the Rockefeller Foundation and the
National Endowment for the Arts.

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