

PITTSBURGH FILM-MAKERS INCORPORATED

P. O. BOX 7200, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213

412 - 681-5449

Jan. 11, 1977

Dear Film/Video Maker,

Your film/tape for circulation in the National Preview network has been received and is now on the circuit. Enclosed is a copy of the Preview Information detailing your film and the others in the respective package.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Haller  
Executive Director  
and  
Project Director,  
National Preview Network

**PITTSBURGH FILM-MAKERS INCORPORATED**

**P. O. BOX 7200, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213**

**412 - 681-5449**

March 9, 1978

Woody & Steina Vasulka  
257 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Woody & Steina,

Enclosed are some more 8 x 10 prints in partial exchange for the Switch! Monitor! Drift! tape you sent me back in September. In a few months I will send still more pictures, as I get 'em made. Also enclosed is a copy of our magazine, the new number of Field of Vision.

Light,



Robert A. Haller  
Executive Director

PITTSBURGH FILM-MAKERS INC.  
PO BOX 7200  
PITTSBURGH PA. 15213  
PHONE 412-681-5449

PREVIEW NETWORK  
FILM/VIDEO  
CONDITION FORM  
INFORMATION

The enclosed form must accompany the film/tape for the duration of the cycle. Please add appropriate information, fold and enclose in film/tape container.

CARE The utmost care in handling and presentation will be given to films and tapes by experienced staff only. Cleaning will be by hand between rewinds except in San Francisco (at the California College of Arts and Crafts) where it will be done on a Pulsar 800 machine.

DAMAGE If minor damage (involving one or several frames or equivalent on tape) should occur, it will be repaired in route. If major (involving many or crucial frames or tape equivalent) the maker will be called for instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONDITION FORM The maker supplies appropriate information at the top of the form, and in the first box. Thereafter, the person at the Host Site receiving, making the visual check, count, and cleaning, will sign the first signature blank. The Site Coordinator then signs the final blank, after the preview screening.

# Pittsburgh Film-Makers

Video Artist Steina Vasulka

10/1-2/76

With her husband Woody, Steina Vasulka founded the pioneer electronic intermedia center The Kitchen in New York city. A musician from Iceland, Steina Vasulka came to the United States in the 1960s. As a consequence she is unmarked by the hostility many American video artists have learned toward native commercial television. In the same way she has not been infected with the social concerns that interest many video-makers in this country. Rather, she is very much concerned with abstractions, and the use of the medium for documentation.

It's quite an American attitude to buy it (video equipment) and take it home. I cannot imagine anyone in Europe who would build up their own studio from scratch. There the synthesizers are all institution-owned, not by individuals. And it's not the money, it's the attitude. There you expect the government to pay and provide you with the facilities. And here none of us, when we were starting, had that attitude . . . but there was this incredible energy, and the need to do it yourself and not count on anybody.

Woody is a film-maker from Czechoslovakia, and it might seem natural that an artist in that visual medium would turn to video. Yet he is an exception; Steina, the musician, is much more usual. In Cantrell's Filmnotes she has remarked, "Most of the people who are in video come from other backgrounds—painters, musicians, architects use it very extensively, and people with any other background, but not film."

On Friday October 1 her program will consist of:

1. Vocabulary, 6 minutes, color.
2. The Matter, 4 minutes, color.
3. C-Trend, 10 minutes, color
4. Telč, 5 minutes, color.
5. Solo for 3, 4 and 1/3 minutes, color.
6. Land of Timoteus, 15 minutes, black and white.
7. Let it be, 4 minutes, black and white.
8. Noisefields, 8 and 1/2 minutes, color.

On Saturday, October 2 Steina Vasulka will present a program called "Underground Nostalgia, New York, 1971" consisting of a number of tapes featuring Ondine, Jackie Curtis, Tally Brown, Taylor Mead, Paul Morrissey, Candy Darling, and Holly Woodlawn.

Pittsburgh Film-Makers wishes to express special thanks to the Communications Center at the University of Pittsburgh for the generous loan of some of the equipment being used for this evening's program.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the  
National Endowment for the Arts.

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May 27, 1976

Steina Vasulka  
257 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Steina Vasulka,

Enclosed are copies of the prints you requested in your letter of the 21st. If you want just one of each, please take them with my compliments. Your part of the Women in Film and Video conference two years ago was very rewarding; perhaps with this I can return to you some of what I received.

If you want additional copies of the prints, they are \$3 each.

As you may know, Pittsburgh Film-Makers regularly schedules appearances of visiting artists at our screening room. So far we have not had a video artist or a video program, but in thinking about it, I several months ago concluded you and or your husband would be excellent people to "introduce" video to our facility. Now that you have written me, I want to take this opportunity to ask you if you would be interested in coming here to present a two evening program of 1) your work, and 2) a selection of video tapes by others that you find especially interesting. We have no video equipment of our own, but can borrow some from the University of Pittsburgh if we know in advance what will be needed. We can offer you \$150 for the two evenings, plus room and board, either in a hotel or in the home of one of our members. Ideal dates would be September 24-25, October 1-2, or 8-9. If you are interested in such a visit, please write or call me at the above number . Enclosed is a sample poster of our programming.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Haller  
Executive Director

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412 - 681-5449

July 1, 1976

Steina and Woody Vasulka  
257 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Steina and Woody,

This letter is to confirm that you are scheduled for an appearance here on October 1 and 2, 1976 (a Friday-Saturday combination). If you (Steina) can bring Woody we would of course be delighted. As per my conversation with Woody two days ago, I have arranged to get the following equipment for your show:

- one color deck for 3/4 cassettes
- one black and white deck for 1/2 reel to reel tapes
- two black and white monitors
- one color monitor (a Sony Trinitron)

If any other equipment is necessary, please tell me and I'll get it. Can you tell me the titles of some of the tapes you will show each night?

Enclosed are contacts from last weekend. The exposures are uneven on the contact but the negatives will print. Woody is out of focus in some of the shots because I was focusing on the mirror ~~XXXXXX~~ behind him (Stan did the same thing when he took one shot). I will send some enlargements in a few weeks when I can do some printing.

I can't say how delighted I am that you will be coming (both if possible). So far the only video programs here have been disappointing (David Cort showed what I felt was the less interesting half of a larger program he presented at Anthology, and Stephen Beck showed some of his work made with Jordan Belson). I really don't know much about video, but felt you opened up more possibilities at the Women's Film and Video Conference two years ago than Cort or Beck did here. Can you recommend some reading on the subject? I have the new book Video Art.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Haller  
Exec. Director



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412 - 681-5449

August 22, 1977

Steina Vasulka  
257 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Steina,

Two months ago I called your apartment, seeking you, and talked to Woody instead (because you were out of the country). I called because I wanted to swap some photographs for the tape you had earlier submitted to the Preview Network, and which had just returned—Switch! Monitor! Drift!. Woody said you might well be interested in doing this, and I said I would write or call you after you returned to Buffalo. Until now I haven't done so because I kept expecting to have some prints to send you in a few days or so, and the few days added up to about a month. But now I do have some prints (enclosed are ten) so at last I am writing. I feel that, in exchange for the tape, I owe you about ten more (assuming you want the enclosed ten).

How do you feel about this?

Last week I hoped to see you after Thom Andersen's screening (Sally and I came up to Buffalo for that one evening) but you didn't appear at the after-show party. Gerry said you are up to your eyes in new, computer video gear.

Enclosed is a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Haller  
Executive Director

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April 15, 1977

Dear *Woody & Steina,*

Thank you for participating in the *October 1976* cycle of the National Preview Network. We hope that you will continue to submit new work.

We are interested in your reactions. As far as you can tell, have there been any rentals of your film/video tape as a result of Preview Network screenings?

If you did not send us money or postage to cover the return of your film/tape, the amount owed will be indicated below.

Sincerely,



Robert Haller  
Project Director,  
National Preview Network

The amount you owe for return postage is *\$ 2.92*.  
Please remit in the form of a check made out to  
Pittsburgh Film-Makers Inc.

The Vasulkas  
257 Franklin St.  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202