

9/00

## **Multiscreen Music**

### **The Video Installations of Steina Vasulka**

For Steina Vasulka, who began her life in art as a violinist, the different channels of image and sound in multiscreen video are equivalent to musical polyphony, each functioning like a voice in a musical ensemble. This is an artform she pioneered a quarter of a century ago, and from the beginning she approached it as would a composer. Think of the installations in this exhibition as quartets and a trio in which Steina plays on the visual equivalents of timbre, texture, rhythm, and tone. Her compositional strategies include recording scenes with her camera upside down, or with two cameras, or with camera movement controlled by computer or by manual remote-control devices. She slows down the images, reverses their direction, flips them left right, mirrors them electronically and physically (with mirrored surfaces both spherical and flat, static and in motion). Each channel of image and sound is edited to integrate with the others in an audiovisual point/counterpoint organized around duration, interval, rhythm, repetition, and series.

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