

Monday, October 14, 1998

Ms. Steina Vasulka
Rt 6, Box 100
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Steina Vasulka:

We are writing to invite you to participate in the symposium **“Simplicity and Complexity in the Arts and in the Creative Process”** on December 4th and 5th, organized by SITE Santa Fe, international contemporary arts museum, and The Santa Fe Institute, a research and education center dedicated to new scientific research based on multidisciplinary collaborations.

Led by Nobel Laureate physicist Murray Gell-Mann and the poet Marcia Southwick, the conference will focus on the Institute's pioneering investigations into connections between the simple fundamental laws of nature and the complexity and diversity of human beings and the world around them. It will specifically address applications of the scientific notions of “Simplicity” and “Complexity” to the Arts and creative thinking, through dialogues amongst world-renowned artists, musicians, architects, art historians and scientists.

Other participants we are inviting are Laurie Anderson, performance artist; William Calvin, author; James Crutchfield, physicist; Frank Gehry, architect; Philip Glass, music composer; Michael Hawley, computer scientist; Jim Jarmusch, filmmaker and producer; Joseph Kosuth, conceptual artist; Steven Lavine, President, California Institute of Arts; Cormac McCarthy; Alan Rath, robotics artist; Lou Reed, musician; David Ross, Director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; David St. John, poet; Moshe Safdie, architect; Chuck Stevens, neuroscientist; Kirk Varnedoe, Chief Curator, Dept. of Painting and Sculpture, Museum of Modern Art; Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown, architects; Bill Viola, video artist; Elyn Zimmerman, sculptor. *Alexis Smith Bob Demirew Robert Fitzpatrick*

The two-day program will consist of several closed sessions on Friday and Saturday, followed by a public event at which each participant will be asked to make a five-minute presentation of any kind connected to the private meetings. A panel discussion will follow these presentations.

Please find included an expanded statement prepared by Professor Gell-Mann on the topic of the symposium, as well as a recently published article by him on the concepts of simplicity and complexity. We are also enclosing a mission statement from each of the organizing institutions.

The symposium is planned in conjunction with the exhibition **ALAN RATH: ROBOTICS**, which includes new interactive electromechanical sculptures by this internationally acclaimed artist.



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For your participation, we will be providing you with round-trip airfare, ground transportation and accommodations while in Santa Fe, including \$100.00 for incidentals. Sarah King, our symposium coordinator, will be calling you over the next couple of days to answer any questions you may have. A response is urgently requested by the next week.

We hope that you will join us as your invaluable contributions in the fields of video art will lend immeasurable insight to this ground-breaking event.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Gell-Mann".

Murray Gell-Mann
Professor & Co-Chairman of Science Board,
Santa Fe Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Southwick".

Marcia Southwick
Visiting Professor of English,
University of New Mexico

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis Grachos".

Louis Grachos
Director/Curator,
SITE Santa Fe



- Professor Gell-Mann's statement:

"We envisage a two-day seminar involving artists and scholars of art history together with theoretical scientists who study concepts of simplicity and complexity.

One meaning for the complexity of an entity is the length of a very concise description of its regularities, as opposed to those features treated as random or incidental. The regularities that are identified depend to a considerable extent on the observer's experience and also on the level of detail (coarse graining) at which the entity is described. In connection with a work of art, they might refer to visual or auditory patterns, to characters and subplots in the case of a novel, and so forth. An entity may be said to be simple when its regularities that are under consideration can be briefly categorized. In a case of a work of art, of course, associations on the part of the observer would be normally included, making for greater complexity."



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Tuesday, November 3, 1998

Steina Vasulka
Rt. 6, Box 100
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Steina:

It was a pleasure to meet you the other day and I hope that your trip went well. Please find enclosed the original copy of the invitation letter describing the symposium that was faxed to you; an information packet with related materials about both SITE Santa Fe and The Santa Fe Institute; and a schedule of events for "**Simplicity and Complexity in the Arts and in the Creative Process**" during December 4th and 5th.

I am also including an agreement form confirming your participation at the conference. Please sign both copies--keep one for your files and return the other to my attention at SITE Santa Fe.

My phone number is 505 989 1199. We also need a photograph of yourself for press purposes as soon as possible.

Once again, we are delighted that you will be attending the symposium.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah S. King".

Sarah S. King
Symposium Coordinator



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AGREEMENT

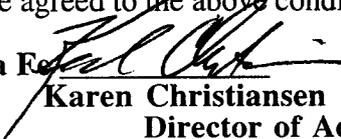
Between **SITE Santa Fe, The Santa Fe Institute and Steina Vasulka**

This will confirm **Steina Vasulka** has agreed to participate in the Symposium:
“**Simplicity and Complexity in the Arts and in the Creative Process,**” all-day
on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5th. This schedule also includes a public
forum on Saturday.

SITE Santa Fe and the **Santa Fe Institute** will be providing you with most meals and
\$100.00 for incidentals.

Both parties have agreed to the above conditions by their signatures.

For **SITE Santa Fe**


Karen Christiansen

Director of Administration

Date 10/29/98

For **Steina Vasulka** _____ date _____



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Proposed schedule of events

Thurs., Dec.3

5:00-7:00 P.M.
(Hotel Santa Fe will be providing a shuttle service to-and-from the hotel)

Welcoming Cocktail Reception at SITE Santa Fe

Friday, Dec.4

7:00-8:30 A.M.

Complimentary Continental Breakfast at Hotel Santa Fe

9:00 A.M.
(Shuttle service will be provided by the hotel--this needs to be confirmed)

Symposium begins at the Santa Fe Institute

12:30-2:00

Lunch provided by the Santa Fe Institute

2:15 P.M.

Conference resumes at the Institute

5:00 P.M.
(shuttle service needs to be confirmed)

Conference ends

7:00 P.M.

Dinner hosted by the Santa Fe Institute

Sat. Dec.5

7:00-8:30 A.M.
(Shuttle service needs to be confirmed)

Complimentary Continental breakfast at Hotel Santa Fe

9:00- 12:00

Symposium Part II at The Institute

12:00-1:30 P.M.
(shuttle service needs to be confirmed)

Lunch provided by the Santa Fe Institute

2: 00-4:30 P.M.

Public Session at SITE Santa Fe

4:30-5:30 P.M.

Presentation by Mark Tilden

7:00 P.M.

Dinner at Robert Denison & Tina LeMarque Denison

Sunday Dec.6

7:00-8:30 A.M.

Complimentary Continental breakfast at Santa Fe Hotel