

# THE VASULKAS

631

Orka\_ 1997

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Since my art schooling was in music, I do not think of images as stills, but always as motion. My video images primarily hinge upon an undefined sense of time with no earth gravity. It is like a duty to show what can not be seen except with the eye of media: water flowing uphill or sideways, upside down rolling seas or a weather beaten drop of a glacier melt.

The idea is that perhaps the audience could feel a part of this creative trance, living for a moment in a mental world where they have never been. \_ Steina

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#### Description:

In Orka, a three channel video environment, the three video players provides one video and two audio sources to three projectors and six speakers. A video synchronizer aligns the three channels of video for a synchronous playback. At the end of each fifteen minute cycle the program automatically returns and re-synchronizes for a repeat performance.

#### Synchronizer:

The Laser Disk Synchronizer used by the Vasulkas is custom build and interfaces with Pioneer Industrial Laser Disk Players (2200 to 8000 series) It is not interchangeable with other manufacturers of Laser Disk Players. [Other brands (Sony, Phillips) require a different (commercially available) synchronizing device.]

#### Screens:

The characteristic of the translucent screens is to show the image in equal intensity front or rear. They are placed on the floor in self-standing frame assemblies, arranged in a semi-random pattern, avoiding explicit symmetry or parallel positioning. As there is no singular point of view, the environment must be constructed for the audience to feel encouraged to enter the room, walk around, cast their shadows on the screens or sit down.

[There is a general floor plan drawn to show the placing of the screens and a bench or a couple of chairs, but since exhibition spaces vary in size and characteristics, it is preferable to involve a person familiar with the procedure.]

#### Projectors:

There are two classes of video projectors available: single lens, or three lens projectors. It is possible to use four projector instead of two, avoiding the hassle of the split mirror alignment altogether. [The three gun projectors needs professional alignment and a larger size beam splitter assembly. The throw distance and the size of screens varies also, but they must be able to deliver sufficient amount of light/image.]

#### The space:

Minimal Active Space (see drawing/floor plan):

10 meters by 7.5 meters by 3.5 meters high

35 feet by 25 feet by 12 feet high

The major consideration of space is the total avoidance of ambient light. The space should be painted in non-reflective black and no light source other than the one that emanates from monitors themselves should exist. The entrance must be well isolated for light and sound. Most ideal is a double trap door with sound insulating material (see drawing).

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Technical notes for installing, setting up, operating and  
maintaining the exhibit

Itemized Equipment List for Orka:

- 3 Self standing Screens
- 3 Pioneer Video Laser Disk Players, LD-V Series
- 3 Program Video Laser Disks NTSC, Color
- 1 Three Channel Synchronizer
- 3 Stereo Audio Amplifiers (6 audio channels)
- 1 Six Channel Audio Mixer
- 3 Stereo Filters
- 6 Speakers
- 6 Speakers Wall Mounts
- 6 Speaker Cables
- 1 Sub Woofer
- 3 Pairs of Stereo Cables
- 3 Pairs of RCA Splitters
- 3 Video Cables
- 22 Power Outlets

This equipment except the projectors and speakers should be located outside the exhibition space (in a small adjacent tech area). The projectors are arranged in a random way in the exhibition space.

Audio wiring:

Connect the two stereo cables from each player through the three low frequency filters to the amplifiers, and the six speaker cables to the speakers. The speakers should be hung on the walls at equal distances.

Sound and image alignment (tuning):

Video:

Contrast: maximum

Brightness: half way between minimum and the middle\*

Sound:

Treble: normal

Base: maximum

\*The basic rule here is to set up the proper and deep color black as a reference to the maximum contrast and brightness. With that the other components (hue, color saturation) can be assigned. But in final the persons installing the environment must use their aesthetic judgment as to the proper settings and visual impact of the exhibit.

Daily Operations:

Start up:

1. Power up Disk players and synchronizer
2. Turn the projectors on (verify green lamp)

Wait a short while to verify that the installation is starting synchronously. If not, turn power off and on again for the Players and synchronizer NOT THE PROJECTOR. If problem persists notify Steina by phone, fax or e-mail.

Shut down:

1. Turn the power on the projectors off locally (the fan will keep going until the units have sufficiently cooled down).
2. After the fans stop, turn off power distributors for the Projectors, Disk players and Synchronizer

Att: the projectors may only be turned off by the power switch on the units and never by pulling the cable out, as the unit needs to be cooled down (ca one minute) by the internal fan.

**Maintenance:**

The projection lenses need to be cleaned with a soft cloth at least once a week

**Power requirement (depending on equipment used):**

Video projectors:	Sharp XG-2000U	230 watts
	Sharp XV- P10U	175 watts
Stereo Amplifiers:	Technics/Sony	150 watts
Video Disk Players:	Pioneer 2200	70 watts
	Pioneer 8000	100 watts
Synchronizer:	Gritzo 1	40 watts

Outside USA, a Power Transformer 220 to 110, 1000w

**Shipping information:**

Number of crates: 3

Box 1: 2 Projectors

Box 2: 1 Projector and Synchronizer

Box 3: 3 Disk players, 3 Stereo Amps, 3 Low Frequency Filters,  
1 Subwoofer, 1 Sync Box, 3 AC boxes, All Cables.