

ENTERING

1974

PETER DONEBAUER

8 minutes PAL/NTSC Mastered on 2" quad PAL

Music by Simon Desorgher

Studio of realisation: Royal College of Art, London

Studio engineer: Reg Clough

Produced by British Broadcasting Corporation, London

"Entering" was commissioned by the Arts Features department of BBC 2 for showing on the last programme of the series "Second House" shown in May 1974. It was the first independent artist's tape to be broadcast nationally in the U.K., and almost certainly the first abstract work shown.

The recording took place in the White City centre via an outside broadcast microwave link from the Royal College of Art TV Studio in Kensington. The signal was bounced across London via the Crystal Palace transmission tower to get an unimpeded path to its destination. The recording took place in a two hour period on the afternoon of March 22nd 1974.

This recording followed two days of setting up and rehearsals, the time factor being one of the reasons that the BBC's own studios were found to be unsatisfactory. The widely dispersed physical layout of the broadcast studios also did not allow the intimate and complex manipulations necessary for the realisation of this tape.

The method of production was evolved in a period funded by the Arts Council of Great Britain at the RCA. It consisted of a live performance of the visual elements simultaneous to a live performance of the sound elements, both being recorded onto videotape together. Although pre-structured and rehearsed there was an important element of spontaneous improvisation between the two performers as they responded to one another's productions in the other medium. This process "marries" the sound and picture elements together through meaningful associations made in the minds of the two performers, and is complemented by the use of physical transducers built by Peter Donebauer and situated in front of the studio cameras. Both pre-recorded and live sound were used, and further levels of electronic manipulation and processing of both vision and sound performed live result in the final piece.

The essential theme of "Entering" is the experience of birth. It also alludes to the re-birth experience associated with the production of creative work.

This videotape was produced in, and intended to be viewed in, a darkened room.