

1081 NOV 1983

Report on Arts Council/N.E.L.P. video fellowship.
Summer term.

At the beginning of the term I put on the installation "Blue Gestures, that I had been working on in the spring, in the TV studio at NELP. This involved two vcr's and six monitors, turned vertically through 90 degrees, arranged in three groups of two on the floor. Each monitor showed an animated sequence of either a man or a woman dancing, so that they were either dancing "together", or two men and two women. The soundtrack was made at the sound studios at NELP, and consisted of a spoken narrative that was cut up and multi-tracked, interspersed with rhythmical clapping. On the floor the four hundred drawings used to make the animation were laid out in sequence, and on the wall, separately illuminated, were a series of infra-red black and white photographs, which showed both a frozen and a blurred representation of the same isolated gesture or movement. The installation was successful, I think, but some of the framework of meaning behind it (time, and what happens to it, and movement when it is frozen) was a little muddy.

I am therefore remaking this piece, with a different title (as yet unknown) and with new visual material and music, but this is in abeyance at the moment.

I am also working on three other projects, which will be completed by November/December. "The Dictionary" is a 25 minute single monitor tape consisting of a series of episodes around and about language, linked by music which I am making myself. The three main sections are apparent excerpts from a Sunday morning BBC type of language lesson (but one I have invented myself). Other sections refer to Wittgenstein's theories, and

words as objects, and employ narrative and visual metaphors. I have shot the source material for this piece this term and started the rough edit, which will be completed over the next couple of weeks now that new editing equipment has arrived at the college. This tape will be shown at the LVA Gallery on 1st December, with other tapes by current NELP students.

I have produced an installation for the Spectro Gallery, which is currently being shown through October-- "The Chemistry Set". This is a four monitor, single vcr piece, employing a dense mix (dance mix?) of separate musical elements which are combined and recombined, the soundtrack being produced by my collaborator Tom Morley. The visual imagery is of the four elements, an aeroplane and clockwork toys, which move separately through earth air, fire and water. Two monitors have perforated screens in front of them through which parts of the picture can be seen. Sometimes this makes no sense; sometimes the image coincides exactly with the holes in the screen. A continuous series of black and white slides projected behind the monitors show different masked off areas of the same original photograph.

I will be showing an alternative version of this piece in the gallery at NELP in early November.

Over the past three months I have also been working with Rose Finn-Kelcey, collaborating on the production of a video of her performance "Glory", performed at the Serpentine Gallery in May. This has been shot and a rough edit made. The final edit will be made before the end of October.

I have been teaching one day a week, and ran a video project on "Male and female representation in art" with Catherine Elwes, for a group of students in June. This was very successful, I think, and several tapes were produced by the students in a short period of time (also a short one by Catherine and myself).

The tapes we booked from LVA as discussion material were shown to other interested NELS students as well as ones on the project. I've been closely involved with David Parsons in arranging the purchase of new video equipment for the art college. This has now arrived and I have also been involved in the installation of this equipment, and instruction in its use, as I will be teaching one day a week at NELS in the next academic year. Most of the film students this year have used video at one time or another, and there are four or five whose sole or main activity is in video production.

Overall this has been a productive year for me, partly as a result of the help and encouragement I've had from David Parsons and the other staff at Greengate House (for which I'm very grateful). The few problems I've had have been as a result of having to share studio resources with other departments in the polytechnic, but with the arrival of new equipment for sole art college use, these are no longer relevant. The video fellowship is continuing next year and I hope to work closely with the next video fellow Jayne Parker, in a different capacity, to enable it to be as fruitful for her as it has been for me.