

## The Sufferance

Bluecoat Gallery  
New Commission

### Lei Cox (UK)

Born 3.9.65. Lives and works in Dundee, Scotland.

My current work is closer to painting and photomontage: it is electromontage or electrography. I use video equipment to record the subject. Then, when I find the right action, I drop a few seconds into a digital video paints system. It's like vacuuming. You suck up hundreds of frames of the model or scene and empty the bag and chose the exact picture sequence. This means I can work with non-professionals, who look and are exactly right for the piece.

*The Sufferance* draws references from classical painters such as **Rembrandt**, **Michaelangelo**, **Leonardo de Vinci** and **Pouisson** and their crucifixion scene paintings. By looking at their colours, composition and narration, I have built a seven screen video piece to re-create a modern crucifixion. The piece contains enjoyment and punishment acting as a warning for contemporary man and woman. There are, however, overtones of a Zen-like optimism of continual growth with hints of rebirth. The piece directly follows on from my video portrait work and in some ways is a full, life size video painting.

The five electrographs on show are presented as colour photos but they also exist as video looped moving pieces that are intended to be hung in the gallery behind false walls, in framed monitors. Some of these works can be presented as short television art pieces that contain linear narrative and musical accompaniment.

The images on show have been montaged and multi-layered using Quantel hardware platforms and reproduced electronically on slide film. The film is then placed under a conventional enlarger and processed on photographic paper. It feels good to collect portraits, backgrounds and subjects, to put them in an archive until the time is right to make a picture. It's more like painting and photography.

This installation consists of 7 monitors, 7 U-Matic decks, 1 sync starter.



### Selected Exhibitions

- 1992 *Encubes*, VIDEOFORMES 92, Clermont Ferrand, France.
- 1991 *Magnification Maximus*, VIDEO POSITIVE 91, Tate Gallery Liverpool, England.
- 1990 *Giant*, stage set installation for dance group, touring UK.

*Supported by the Scottish Arts Council, Quantel and The Television Workshop, Duncan of Jordanstone College.*