

ART

monthly

July/August 1983

**Royal College of Art Degree Show 1983;
School of Film and Television and Department of Environmental Media**

From Environmental Media, Judith Goddard's four video works were very good, particularly as they showed a varied formal and expressive range of approaches. Her *Time Spent* used a domestic setting and close-ups of a woman. It moved constantly between real/normal time with soundtrack and frozen shots or slow motion, with silence and repeated scraps of a conversation to portray among other things female depression. *Go into your fridge* took what looked like a 1950s American TV series on painting for bored housewives and playfully dismantled it whilst at the same time treating us to a more serious display of the relationship between painting and video through colour and textural manipulations. More in the decadent mould, Goddard's *Under the Rose* had an operatic soundtrack (a pure female voice) whilst the images included such swinging lit candles, rotting flowers, the naked shoulder of a woman. The beauty of the colours (often soft and ripe) and its celebration of a highly self-conscious style where images evoke, when they do, less for any internal reflexive reasons, but more for the cultural load they carry.

Michael O'Pray