

# MICK HARTNEY

Born 1946 London; University of Sussex 1965-68 (B.A. Literature) Currently Head of Audio-Visual Media Unity, Brighton Polytechnic Faculty of Art & Design.

## About the Work

Although I have produced video installations for specific occasions, and continue to do so when it seems appropriate, employing a number of TV monitors and multiple tape sources, I prefer at present to make tapes for single-screen viewing by a relatively small audience. The viewers' awareness that they are watching events unfold in time is an important ingredient of the work. I like to utilise the suspension of disbelief which people normally adopt in front of a television set, whether for entertainment or 'factual' programming, and invite the viewer to join me in a series of complex games in which their trust in the veracity of what they are witnessing is continuously shattered and restored. For this reason, I try to employ techniques which are parallel to those found in conventional broadcasting, though with aims, and images, which are quite different. The tapes are 'about' the medium of video, but each tape also contains references to a social or political situation. My efforts to define my own position relative to the situation provides the 'plot' of each work.

## Programmes

The programme would be selected from the following tapes and tape/performances, according to the specific conditions:

*Stateless*, 1977, videotape, colour, twenty one minutes

*Withdrawn from Exhibition*, 1978, videotape, colour, ten minutes

*Orange Free State*, 1978, videotape, colour, twenty five minutes

*State of Division*, 1979, videotape or tape/performance, five minutes

*Mixed Doubles*, 1979, continuously evolving installation, twenty minute cycle

*Dickler's Whammy*, 1980, videotape, colour, fifteen minutes

*Wipe Retained*, 1980, tape/performance, colour, ten minutes

## Address

103 Freshfield Road  
Brighton BN2 2BL

## Duration

one to two hours

## Equipment required

Basic requirements are a U-Matic VCR and a 26" colour monitor. For some tapes a stereo audio amplifier and speakers are necessary. Additional equipment may be needed according to the agreed programme.



Withdrawn from Exhibition

**Further information**  
Film Officer  
Arts Council of Great Britain  
105 Piccadilly  
London W1V 0AU  
Telephone 01-629 9495

February 1980