

MARCH 15

STEVE -

THANKS FOR THE INVITE TO PARTICIPATE IN 'VIDEO ART '78'.
SORRY TO HAVE BEEN SO LONG RESPONDING, BUT I'VE BEEN
OUT OF TOUCH 'DOWN UNDER' IN AUSTRALIA.

I WISH YOU ALL SUCCESS IN YOUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER
EXPOSE VIDEO OUT INTO THE WORLD. SOMETIMES EVEN
HERE IN NEW YORK WE ALL FEEL OUT IN THE 'TWILIGHT ZONE'
AND WONDER WHO WILL REALLY SEE WHAT WE'RE DOING,
AND ARE WE DOING ALL THIS JUST FOR OURSELVES OR WHAT.

I THINK WE NEED MORE COMMUNICATION PATHWAYS NOT JUST
BETWEEN EACH OTHER IN OUR OWN CITY, STATE, OR COUNTRIES,
BUT AMONG OUR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

I RECENTLY HAD THE CHANCE TO ATTEND A MEDIA WORKSHOP
(FILM SUPER 8, VIDEO, AUDIO, 35mm PHOTOGRAPHY) FOR MELANESIAN
PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, FROM SUCH COUNTRIES AS
NEW HEBRIDES, NEW CALEDONIA, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SO
WE ARE BY NO MEANS TALKING ABOUT A LIMITED 'WESTERN'
PHENOMENON. AND IT WILL ALL COME TOGETHER WITH MORE
EFFORTS LIKE YOURS AROUND THE WORLD.

ON A MORE MUNDANE LEVEL I ALSO APPLAUDE YOUR EFFORTS
TO FUND ALL PARTICIPANTS. AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE MANY
SERIOUS VIDEO MAKERS HERE IN THE STATES (AND AROUND EUROPE)
WHO ARE SINCERELY TRYING TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR
WORK, AND ALL THESE 'FREE-BEE' VIDEO SHOWS AROUND JUST TEND
TO THWART THESE EFFORTS AS WELL AS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
THE INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS. I WOULD HOPE PAYMENT FOR SHOWING
BECOMES THE RULE, NOT THE EXCEPTION.

ENCLOSED FIND PHOTO + INFO. THE TAPE IS MAILED
SEPARATELY.

ALL GOOD THINGS FOR YOUR WORK - Bill Viola

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Four Songs is a collection of musical stories in allegorical form. They are a set of personal projections which concern the subjective nature of life experience. The images and sounds are composed into audio visual rhythms based on the psychological emotional dynamics of the original situations, rather than their content or storyline aspects. The aesthetic ideas they express are closely bound to the unique characteristics and high degree of precision offered by state-of-the-art post-production video systems. Particular attention is paid to the power and importance of sound in the final stage of the work.

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- Bill Viola born 1951 New York City
- Studied electronic music at Syracuse University
- 1969-74 member of the Synapse group, Syracuse University
 installed and operated campus-wide cable TV system
 Initiated courses in video at university art school.
 Technical consultant video, Everson Museum
- 1974-76 Technical director in charge of production at
 Art/Tapes/22 Florence, Italy
- 1976-78 Artist-in-residence WNET/13 Television Laboratory, New York
- 1973-78 Performing with David Tudor and others in 'Rainforest'
 throughout U.S. and France. Group now called Composers
 Inside Electronics.
- 1976-78 Original member and resident artist with International
 Television Workshop, a group of artists including Nam June
 Paik exploring cultural expression and exchange through
 television. Travels to Siena, Italy; Solomon Islands in
 the South Pacific; and Java, Indonesia to produce work.