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## **TAPES IN DISTRIBUTION**

### **The Vasulkas**

In 1971 we changed from 1/2 inch C.V to 1/2 inch A.V., reel-to-reel format. Since mid-1974 our tapes have originated on 3/4 inch cassettes. Although the format is irrelevant to means of distribution, it influences, in origination, the basic textural characteristic of the image, and also states the non-industrial conditions under which they were made. The descriptions of each tape do not attempt to evaluate the image content itself, but to indicate the electronic concept, applied in the construction of taped images. The tapes are in color unless otherwise indicated. In a great majority of our tapes, we have used sounds generated by video images or images conceived from the sound spectrum. Tools used in this process were standard audio synthesizing instruments, voltage controlled oscillators and other frequency generated circuits.

Until now, before our encounter with the computer, our expression of image-sound-image has been direct and linear, partly on purpose, partly because we lacked additional, more complex coding tools. Especially in its primitive interface of cause and effect, the process has revealed to us the behavior of the medium, its materiality and its control modes. Our work has developed through design and use of special video tools, which have progressively contributed to the formal and conceptual complexity of our imagery. In this process, we have worked in close collaboration with several tool designers and builders, notably Eric Siegel, George Brown, Bill Etra, Steve Rutt, Don McArthur and Jeffrey Schier.

### **TOOLS**

#### ***R/E Scan Processor***

Produced in 1974 by Steven Rutt and William Etra.

-An analog device using a programmable deflection system of the cathode ray tube to reshape standard television frames.

#### ***Dual Colorizer***

Produced in 1972 by Eric Siegel.

-A device which assigns color to black and white images according to the gray scale differences. "Dual" indicates that there are two separate colorizing channels.

#### ***A Multikeyer***

Produced in 1973 by George Brown.

-A device which assigns up to six layers of discrete camera images, allowing manipulation of these images as if they were in real foreground/background relationships. Additionally, in this real time process, the re-assignment of the plane-location can be made. Another operational mode quantizes the gray scale of a single input into six discrete gray levels.

#### ***Programmer***

Produced in 1974 by George Brown.

-The complexity of the Multikeyer operation necessitated automation of its processes. We therefore commissioned George Brown to construct a programmable control device able to store a sequence of operations and perform them automatically. Brown's approach was to construct a fully digital instrument.

#### ***H.D. Variable Clock***

Produced in 1972 by George Brown.

-A pulse generator operating in the regions of the horizontal sync (15,750hz) capable of finely controlled deviation from the standard horizontal frequency. It enabled us to introduce the dynamic element of controlled horizontal drift to the video image.

***Field Flip/Flop Switcher***

Produced in 1971 by George Brown.

-A variable speed programmable vertical interval switcher, selecting between two sources at specified field multiples.

*Whenever a tool is specified in the tape description, the credit goes to those individuals.*

*End*