

# THE VASULKAS

## Woody Vasulka: Biographical notes

Woody Vasulka was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia where he studied metal technologies and hydraulic mechanics at the School of Industrial Engineering. Later, at the Academy of Performing Arts (Faculty of Film and Television) in Prague, he produced and directed several short films. He emigrated to the United States in 1965, living in New York City, where he worked as a freelance film editor and experimented with electronic sounds and stroboscopic lights. With his wife Steina, he founded The Kitchen in New York City, recognized as one of the foremost producing and presenting organizations in the world of experimental media spaces. Woody has participated in major video shows worldwide, published articles, composed music, lectured and taught internationally. In 1974, he became a faculty member of the Center for Media Study at State University of New York, Buffalo. While living there he began investigations into video and the computer.

He is a Guggenheim Fellow, and the recipient of numerous other distinctions including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Film Institute and the Siemens Media Art Prize.

Since his move to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1980, he has produced three major video works: Artifacts, The Commission (an operatic work based on the legend of Paganini and Hector Berlioz), and Art of Memory (a series of "songs" thematically related to 20th century political events).

His first multimedia installation The Theater of Hybrid Automata, a result of his investigations into "digital space" has been exhibited in Los Angeles, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and Holland.

His most recent installation is a largely computer-assisted work, entitled Brotherhood.

A laserdisc interactive book he co-edited titled Eigenwelt der Apparatewelt featuring the "pioneers of electronic art" was produced by Ars Electronica for an exhibit with the same name, curated by the Vasulkas in Linz, Austria, 1992.

As a Guest Professor at the Faculty of Art of the Polytechnic Institut (VUT) in Brno, Czech Republic, He heads an experimental program at the Atelier of Videoart and Multimedia.

The year 1996 will see a major retrospective of the Vasulkas' works at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, with the publication of an expanded catalogue (book and CD ROM). September 1993.