

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
May 1987

## FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION BILL VIOLA: INSTALLATIONS AND VIDEOTAPES
- DATES October 16, 1987 - January 3, 1988
- SPONSORSHIP The exhibition is supported in part by grants from Sony Corporation of America, the Pinewood Foundation, the McArthur Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- CONTENT This exhibition provides the first in-depth look at the past ten years of American artist Bill Viola's career. Viola creates videotapes and video and sound installations, which, though technologically complex, are deceptively spare. His works contain references to specific people and places encountered on travels around the world. Viola is concerned with how his images exist in the viewer's mind, interacting with memory and the subconscious. The exhibition includes the installations Reasons for Knocking at an Empty House (1982), Room for St. John of the Cross (1983), and Extended Temporalities (1987); and an extensive program of videotapes (see attached list).
- THE ARTIST Bill Viola, a thirty-six-year-old artist who currently lives in Southern California, has been working in video and experimental music since 1970. He received a BFA degree in 1973 from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University. Viola has been included in numerous group exhibitions, such as the Whitney Biennial (1985 and 1987) and documenta 6 (1977) and 8 (1987) in Kassel, Germany. His works have also been represented in video and film festivals, as well as on public television both here and abroad. Among his many awards and prizes, the artist has received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Video (1985/86), an Independent Filmmaker Grant from the American Film Institute (1984), and the Japan/U.S. Creative Arts Fellowship (1980/81). The 1983 installation, Room for St. John of the Cross, was recently purchased by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.
- PUBLICATION Bill Viola. Essays by Barbara London, J. Hoberman, and Donald Kuspit. Commentaries by the artist. Chronology with biography; documentation of videotapes, installations, and sound events; and selected bibliography. 50 color and 60 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Paperbound, \$12.50.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.