

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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PROJECTS: KEITH SONNIER

Projects: Keith Sonnier, the first in a series of small exhibitions presented to inform the public about current researches and explorations in the visual arts, is on view at The Museum of Modern Art through June 14.

Keith Sonnier has converted two ground-floor galleries into a unified sound and light environment. The piece is activated through the participation of the visiting public and tries to engage the spectator on a more basic level than just visual perception.

First they enter the smaller gallery where the ceiling has been lowered and walk to an open rectangular space which has been illuminated by red light and where there is a video camera.

Through the use of a special effects generator and two video projectors, negative and positive images from the smaller room are projected in the other gallery. The sound is the feedback of the video equipment. The whole process becomes the work.

The experience relates not only to the recent interests of younger artists in the technological implications of video equipment but also in their extending art to include the spectator and treating the individual as another material to be used. In involving the spectator as performer, the changing situation becomes completely different than that of the usual activity in a museum of just looking at objects.

Keith Sonnier lives in New York and was born in 1941. He has had several one-man exhibitions since 1966, both in this country and in Europe. He has also participated in important group exhibitions, both national and international.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501.
