

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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PROJECTS: VIDEO II

A new program of video pieces by artists whose work involves the performance of live actions -- sometimes ritualistic, sometimes dramatic, sometimes mysterious, sometimes comic -- will be on view daily from 11 A.M. through 1:45 P.M. (Sundays from noon) in the Auditorium Gallery of The Museum of Modern Art beginning November 13 and continuing through January 2, 1975. Tapes by the German artists Joseph Beuys, Ulrike Rosenbach and Rebecca Horn, and by the English team Gilbert and George, have been selected by Barbara London, Curatorial Assistant, Prints and Illustrated Books.

The Joseph Beuys tape, "I Like America and America Likes Me," documents a performance which took place in May, 1974, beginning with the artist's arrival at J.F.K. Airport, where he was wrapped in felt and brought to the René Block Gallery in an ambulance, and concluding with his return to J.F.K. in the same manner three days later. Beuys spent the intervening time in an area of the gallery with a pile of hay, two pieces of felt, 50 copies of the Wall Street Journal, delivered daily, and a live coyote. Separated from Beuys by a mesh fence, spectators could watch the 45-60 minute cycle of Beuys' actions, which included wrapping and unwrapping himself in the felt, straightening the pile of newspapers, chatting with visitors, and engaging the coyote in actions. The 28-minute video tape, shot by Lorraine Senna, is a document of the entire Beuys' performance.

Two works by Ulrike Rosenbach, a former student of Beuys, are included in the program. In "The Man Should Be Head of the Woman" the artist deals with the space between herself and the video camera by drawing a grid on a sheet of glass mounted between the two, while the sound track very slowly repeats the German title of the tape -- "Der Mann sei das Haupt der Frau" -- which has several interpretations. In "Island Music" the camera moves

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slowly and at close range over the artist's torso, while Far Eastern music plays on the sound track.

Rebecca Horn's 30-minute tape "Performance 2: Masks" consists of seven short pieces showing the artist in various tactile actions. In one she caresses her elbow with feathers attached to her fingers, in another she wears a feathered mask and strokes another feathered head. In a sequence in which she wears a grid-like cap of cloth tape with pencils protruding from it, she uses her head to draw on the wall.

Three short works by Gilbert and George will be shown. "In the Bush" shows the artists walking in an English grove of pine trees, accompanied by the sound of chirping birds; "Gordon's Makes Us Drunk" begins with a close-up of a Gordon's Gin bottle, with the field of view gradually widening to show the artists drinking and repeating the title, altering it with each repetition to indicate the degree of their intoxication, while "Pomp and Circumstance" plays on the sound track; and "A Portrait of the Artists as Young Men" is a close-up of their heads coolly looking at the camera.

Performance is the creative expression of all the artists whose tapes are shown in this exhibition. While for Beuys the medium serves an exclusively documentary function in this instance, for the other artists the performance is determined in part by the medium and its effect on the actions of the artist. All tapes in this program are black-and-white. Beuys' tapes will be shown Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Rosenbach's and Horn's Tuesdays and Sundays; Gilbert and George's Wednesdays and Fridays.

Video works by artists will be shown throughout the year as part of the Museum's Projects series. Each program will remain on view approximately two months. Technical assistance has been provided by Video Software Products, Yonkers, New York. The Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7296, -7501.