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ALAN SCARRITT AUDIO-VISUAL INSTALLATION AT MoMA

Alan Scarritt's Seven from Three (for Go) will be installed in the Video Gallery at The Museum of Modern Art beginning August 6 and will be on view through September 15, 1981. Seven from Three (for Go) is an installation based on one videotape and two audiotapes. The thirteen-minute black and white videotape delay, made in 1978, was derived from a performance carried out in 1977 on an experimental NASA communications satellite through "Send/Receive," a group project organized by Keith Sonnier and Liza Bear.

In the performance, Scarritt pointed a video camera at a television set in a ground station in San Francisco, and transmitted this live video imagery, via the satellite situated over Latin America, to another ground station in New York, which in turn sent the imagery back to San Francisco via the satellite. As Scarritt received his images back on the studio monitor after the $\frac{1}{2}$ -second delay caused by the 100,000 mile distance, the camera recorded his active responses over the original images, both of which were again transmitted to and from New York. By repeating the process in both the satellite-delay and the tape delay, Scarritt electronically generated dense spatial effects. Each tape is layered through the recording and the rerecording of the material, which combined make an everchanging but unified whole. Because they are of different durations, the tapes may potentially be perceived in seven random permutations - 1,2,3; 1,2; 1,3; 2,3; 1; 2; 3: Hence, the title -- seven perceptions of three tapes.

The expanding layering of images in the videotape, the result of a system feeding back upon itself, was also the process used in the first of Scarritt's two audiotapes. The first audiotape is the result of a three-word phrase that was continually put back into the electronic system. The words were quickly transformed into electronic sounds. In the second audiotape, the artist inhaled and exhaled through two holes in a harmonica; this was recorded and then repeated, with Scarritt trying to stay in sync with the recorded material. This tape is played back at $\frac{1}{2}$ speed.

Alan Scarritt works in electronic, photographic, sculptural and painterly media, creating site-specific projects. Using elementary materials, he performs simple, repetitive actions -- rerecording a phrase; photographing his hands making two different patterns on the surface of a pool of water; throwing plaster on the

Alan Scarritt Installation cont'd

floor to create a spiral overlapping a set of concentric circles. Born in 1945, Scarritt received a B.A. from Brown University and an M.F.A. from California College of Arts and Crafts. In 1975, Scarritt co-founded Site, Cite, Sight, an alternative gallery in San Francisco. He recently moved to New York from California, where he had lived for ten years. He has had one-person shows in New York, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The presentation of Alan Scarritt's Seven from Three (for Go) is organized and coordinated by Assistant Curator Barbara London of the Video Program. MoMA's video exhibitions are made possible by the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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