

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1987

TENTH SEASON OF MoMA'S VIDEO VIEWPOINTS BEGINS WITH
JACQUES LOUIS AND DANIELE NYST'S L'IMAGE
SEPTEMBER 21

VIDEO VIEWPOINTS, the series in which independent videomakers present and discuss their work, techniques, and theories, commences its tenth season at The Museum of Modern Art on Monday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m. Jacques Louis and Danièle Nyst of Belgium will present their videotape L'Image (1987) and discuss their work.

This forum generally takes place on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. Other programs scheduled for the fall/winter season include a symposium on the exhibition BILL VIOLA, October 19; a presentation by Gusztáv Hámos and Astrid Heibach, November 16; and the appearance of Tony Conrad, December 14.

The Nysts' L'Image (1987), a videotape produced for television, is the narrative continuation of a "saga" that began with Thérèse Plane (1983) and continued with J'ai la tête qui tourne (My Head Is Spinning) (1984) and Hyaloïde (1985). Jacques Louis Nyst is a visual artist and pioneer of independent video activity in Belgium. With Danièle Nyst he has evolved a body of works about images, in the Belgian Surrealist tradition. In these

- more -

- 2 -

"readings," the Nysts use language to evoke imaginary poeticized and appears to science-fiction situations, reporting through words and objects. L'Image will be premiered at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art on September 20 and will also be shown at Montreal's Musée d'Art Contemporain on September 24.

A symposium on the Museum's exhibition BILL VIOLA will take place on Monday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1. The focus will be on Mr. Viola as experimental videomaker and contemporary artist. Participants include Gene Youngblood, professor, California Institute of the Arts; Donald Kuspit, professor, Department of Art, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Raymond Bellour, director of research, Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques, Paris; and Barbara London, assistant curator of Video in the Museum's Department of Film and organizer of the BILL VIOLA exhibition.

West Berlin-based artists Gusztáv Hámos and Astrid Heibach, who have worked in New York City during the past year, will discuss "Everyday Heroes and Heroines" on Monday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. Committed to the organization and promotion of independent video and film, the artists are actively involved with Infermental, one of the first journals produced on videotape. Mr. Hámos frequently explores aspects of the science-fiction and thriller genres and the role of the superhero in contemporary society. Among his works in this program is Lucksmith (1987), which portrays the pulse of Berlin through analogy to the living human body. Ms. Heibach will present four video works, including Believe It or Not (1987), videotaped during the past year in New York City. A

- more -

porcelain pig-ballerina rotates in front of postmodern buildings and appears to eat and absorb the television images pulsating through her.

On Monday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., Tony Conrad will present "Network, Society, and Personal Pluralism." Mr. Conrad teaches film and video at the Center for Media Studies at the State University of New York, Buffalo, and is an organizer of the independent videomakers' association, Squeaky Wheel. In his diverse body of work in film, music, video, and performance, he creates situations that confront personal and social issues and provoke the audience to make its own choices. Mr. Conrad states, "Deliberate release of the viewer from indebtedness to the maker is encouraged by the deliberate self-compromise of the maker, by dividing the viewer's attention, by splitting and degrading plot and character, and by encouraging the viewer's discovery of formal and psychological structures latent in their relationship to the work."

Available tickets for VIDEO VIEWPOINTS are free after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each of the programs, with the exception of the October 19 BILL VIOLA symposium. Tickets for that event are \$8.00, \$7.00 members, and \$5.00 students. VIDEO VIEWPOINTS has been organized by Barbara London.

No. 83

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.