As part of its VIDEO VIEWPOINTS program for spring 1994, The Museum of Modern Art is presenting THROUGH A VIDEO WINDOW: TECHNOLOGY IN THE 1990s, the second annual series of artist talks exploring the beginnings of new art forms powered by computers. The series of three symposia are designed to make complex technological and theoretical concepts accessible to the nonspecialist. Each evening two artists examine, both individually and together, developing aspects of multimedia forms. The programs, which take place on consecutive Mondays in May at 6:30 p.m., are as follows:

MAY 2
Electronic Tales

David Blair
"Multiple-media Integrated Narrative"

Artist David Blair discusses his electronic feature, WAX or the discovery of television among the bees (1991), and its new hypertext form, Waxweb. This expanded CD-ROM version is organized around the original videotape and script. It is multi-authored in that twenty-five people can add characters, different structures, and background stories through the on-line service Internet. Placing the hypertext in a public forum was made possible through a computer system called Hotel MOO, created by computer-science graduate student Tom Meyer. Waxweb serves as a laboratory for Blair's next feature, in which he wants to create a single narrative from multiple hybrid forms.

Kathleen Wilson
"Wandering in Story Space"

Digital media artist Kathleen Wilson discusses narrative structures in emerging technologies. Wilson has created an interactive Multimedia Design Scrapbook for Apple, as well as designs for Sony and RCA/GE/Intel. She has
also conducted studies using multimedia prototypes and products in schools and
museums, and examined the role of technology in the restructuring of schools.
Wilson is Executive Producer/Designer at the Paramount Technology Group's
Media Kitchen, Palo Alto, where she is working to create new forms of digital
media products.

MAY 9
Person-Machine Relationships

Perry Hoberman
"Bar Code and Other Debased Technologies"

Brooklyn-based multimedia artist Perry Hoberman discusses a number of projects
that use a variety of debased and/or obsolete technologies to create
interactive and participatory spectacles and environments. He is presently
working on Bar Code Hotel, an interactive installation in which participants
enter a virtual environment by scanning numerous bar codes with special wands.
Once inside the projected space, the audience can interact with one another.

Tom Sherman
"Machines R Us...In Machines We Trust"

Artist and writer Tom Sherman explores how human relationships with machines
have become essential to maintaining their sense of private identity. He
addresses the role of computers and new media in the invention and
maintenance of self-image. Sherman is the Director of the School of Art and
Design, Syracuse University, and is best known for his video art and writings
about person-machine relationships. He recently completed a series of texts
for broadcast on Austrian national radio.

MAY 16
Machine Practice

Laurie Anderson
"Real Worlds"

Performance artist Laurie Anderson discusses theme parks and her ideas for
"talking books," which she hopes to release on CD-ROM. Along with fellow
musicians Brian Eno and Peter Gabriel, Anderson is planning Real World, a
theme park/amusement park in Barcelona. The park will include rides, a radio
station, talking trees, and permanent and rotating installations that they
have designed along with other artists. Anderson has recently made the video
pieces Beautiful Red Dress (1990) and Carmen (1992), and has written a new
book, Stories from the Nerve Bible. Her new album, Bright Red, is due to be
released in August.

- more -
Sara Diamond  
"The Machine and Human Interface"

Sara Diamond, Director, Television and Video Program, Banff Centre for the Arts, British Columbia, discusses the work Banff is conducting with aboriginal communities and technology networks to produce new media works. She also addresses the replacement of person-to-person encounters with computer interfacing, and the hopes for a new social context opened by the use of new technologies. Diamond’s work includes an eight-monitor video installation, Patternity (1991), a semi-fictional biography of her father, and Heroics (1984-85), a documentary on women’s concepts of heroism.

All VIDEO VIEWPOINTS programs are held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. Remaining tickets are free after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each program. The series has been organized by Barbara London, Associate Curator, and Sally Berger, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video. It is supported in part by The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art and grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, with the support of the Sony Corporation of America.

* * *

No. 23

For further information or press tickets, contact Barbara Marshall, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.