

THE KITCHEN

CENTER FOR
VIDEO, MUSIC
AND DANCE

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By GRACE GLUECK

Gary Hill, "Mesh" (The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street, between Broadway and Wooster Streets): Walk in the door at the Kitchen, and before you know it, you're on television, though you'd hardly recognize yourself. The four video monitors that Gary Hill has placed along the room's sides are fed visual and aural information by two cameras and 20 sound generators. They process your image in a charmingly casual way, translating the biomorphic you into a series of come-and-go grid patterns on the tube, accompanied by a lot of electronic chirping. Depending on where you stand and when, the monitors share, shuffle and scramble your image among themselves, although much of the time they ignore you altogether, preferring instead to disclose enigmatic arrangements of squares and lines that might be their own thought processes.

The environment of sound and imagery, embellished by wall-mounted screens of wire mesh (whose purpose seems decorative), results from Mr. Hill's complex installation, based on an audio synthesizer and what might be called a video-image processor. There is supposed to be some "interface" between the two; that is, the generated sounds affect the visual imagery, and vice versa. In any event, for all the goings on, the enjoyment quotient is not overwhelming. (Through Dec. 15.)

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