

press release

KIT FITZGERALD & JOHN SANBORN

SPECTATOR

A Video/Sound Installation
The Gallery, Sept.30-Oct.11
Tues.-Sat. 1-6pm

Opening Reception
Oct.4 4-6pm

In October, The Kitchen will present the work of video artists Kit Fitzgerald and John Sanborn. A new video/sound installation entitled Spectator will be featured in The Gallery September 30 through October 11. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 1-6pm.

Many times the desire to remain an observer, in a social or personal situation, becomes so strong that we become, in effect, spectators to our own activity. Freed from the responsibility of involvement it is possible to experience a greater awareness of the "here and now". Spectator approximates this state in installation form. A brightly lit set, a sparse living room, faces a video projection of itself. In the projection are two actors, pre-recorded on the set, who carry on a dialogue about inter-personal matters, directing their remarks to a large empty chair.

As the viewer enters the set he or she is incorporated into the projection through a live camera that is mixed with the pre-recorded tape. The viewer becomes both a voyeur to and a participant in the conversation.

Live viewers and recorded actors exist in different time zones but share a common setting. On the projection ghost-like figures travel through a solid landscape. Recorded and live sound will be collected by both open-air and contact microphones so that the simplest actions -- walking, sitting, touching objects -- will seem uncommonly "present".

Kit Fitzgerald and John Sanborn produce works using the elements of video and sound in the form of videotapes, installations, and performances intended for galleries, museums and for broadcast television. Their installations and tapes have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Biennale de Paris, the Acme Gallery (London), the University Art Museum (Berkeley), The Kitchen and many others. Their tapes have been broadcast on public television in this country and on Mexican, French and Belgian TV. They have been artists-in-residence at the Television Laboratory at WNET/13 since 1977, as well as at WXXI-TV and ZBS Media. In 1980 they were commissioned by the Winter Olympic Games' National Fine Arts Committee to produce a series of video works which were broadcast and acclaimed for further articulating the "new visual language" of television.

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