

# BLACK DIRT



by  
ROBERT WHITMAN

May 10-13 & 16-19, 1990

First Book of Moses 3:3

When we say that a car travels a certain number of miles or kilometers per hour, we are using a formula that postulates that speed equals distance through time:  $s=d/t$ . This formula embarrasses no one.

Surprisingly enough.

Speed is experienced by the senses (the faster you move, the greater the injury). Distance is experienced by the senses (the further you go, the more you tire). Time in contrast is not experienced by the senses! Which is presumably the reason that throughout history man has ruminated over the exact nature of time.

If  $s=d/t$  is true then it holds that  $t=d/s$  must also be true (this being merely the same equation expressed another way). Thus, time is a mathematical relationship between two different quantities: distance and speed. Between extension and change, if you will.

Q.E.D.

Albert Einstein once posed himself this question:

How is it that mathematics, a product of the human brain, is so admirably applicable to objects of reality?

But if time is merely a mathematical relationship between distance and change for given bodies, how can it be that time is so admirably (?) applicable to "objects of reality"? To the extent that we accept without question that a movement registered by our senses (a bolting elephant, for example) takes place in something that is no more than an abstract product of the human brain?

Isn't a thought like that embarrassing?

What does all this have to do with Bob Whitman?

He makes us forget that thought. He produces sequences - speed, movements, changes in states and condition, a drama - as in Eden: reality as it must have been BEFORE TIME.

Ulf Linde  
Art Historian  
Stockholm, November 1989

BLACK DIRT  
by Robert Whitman

Director: Robert Whitman  
Technical Director: Andrew Neumann  
Lighting Designer: Floyd L. Bailey III

Actors/Stagehands: Kerry Doyle, Nicole Juralewicz,  
Robert Penotti, Susan Thompson  
Sound Engineer: John Gernand  
Truss Projectionists: John Figley, James Culinane

Fabric Construction: Liz Perlman  
Costume Construction: Mary Anne Friel, Sue Patterson  
and The Fabric Workshop  
Make-up Design: Paula Kelly

Carpenter/Rigger: James Culinane  
Electrician/Rigger: Colin Hodgson  
Sound Assistant: John Maxwell Hobbs  
Additional Seamstress: Veronica Evanega  
Truss: See Factor, Inc.

Producer: Marie Cieri

For The Kitchen:  
Production Manager: John Gernand  
Technical Director: John Figley

BLACK DIRT is a co-commission of the MIT List Visual Arts Center  
and The Arts Company; The Kitchen; The Fabric Workshop and  
Painted Bride Arts Center; and Walker Arts Center.

New York presentation assisted by Dia Art Foundation.

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