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"PRIMARILY SPEAKING" BY GARY HILL

AT WHITNEY MUSEUM

The premiere of Gary Hill's newly completed audiovisual environment, Primarily Speaking (1981-83), will be presented in the New American Filmmakers Series at the Whitney Museum of American Art November 8 through December 11, from 12:00 to 6:00; Tuesdays until 8:00. Hill will give a gallery talk on November 10 at 2:00.

Gary Hill is a young artist who is making an important contribution to the art of video. In Primarily Speaking, a two-channel video installation, he creates a complex composition of color, image, sound, and voice relationships. The installation comprises 8 video monitors arranged on two walls which face each other to form a corridor about the width of outstretched arms. Standing between the two banks of monitors, the viewer is immersed in a wave of oscillating sounds and images.

The title, Primarily Speaking, is meant to be taken literally and accentuates the text which consists of a monologue made up of idiomatic phrases and is articulated by a narrator. Hill employs two channels to establish a speaking or questioning wall and a listening or answering wall. On each of the walls one of the four monitors carries a picture while the other three monitors display colors (blue, green, red on one side and cyan, magenta, yellow on the opposite side). As the monologue progresses the pictures alternate from monitor to monitor producing a succession of colors and images.

(more)

Gary Hill was born in 1951 and began making sculpture at the age of fifteen in California. Moving to Woodstock, New York, in 1969 he studied at the Art Students' League of Woodstock before becoming involved with Woodstock Community Video. He has been artist-in-residence at Artists in Schools and Artists TV Lab, Woodstock; Synapse, Syracuse; Portable Channel, Rochester; and WNET/Channel 13, New York City.

Hill was represented in the Whitney Museum's 1983 Biennial Exhibition with Videograms, and in "The Second Link: Viewpoints on Video in the Eighties" (a traveling exhibition) at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, with the videotape Primarily Speaking. He has also shown Primarily Speaking as a work-in-progress at The Kitchen; Galerie H at ORF, Steirischer Herbst, Graz, Austria; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Sante Fe, New Mexico, as part of "Video as Attitude."

The New American Filmmakers Series is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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