

press release

GARY HILL

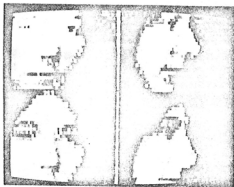
MESH, Video Installation

November 27-December 15, 1979

Tues-Sat, 1-6pm

The Gallery, The Kitchen Center

484 Broome Street



From November 27th through December 15th, The Kitchen Center's Gallery will feature MESH, a video installation by Gary Hill. Originally exhibited at the Everson Museum in Syracuse, MESH is scored for 4 channels of video, 20 channels of sound and wall-mounted screens of wire mesh.

MESH engages the viewer by means of a four-channel video system which cycles through an imaging/re-imaging of the viewer's own image. The time frame for the movement and rearrangement of the image is controlled by the viewer's entry into the space, movement within the space and exit from the space. The viewer's image is digitally translated into a grid pattern (as in the above photo). As the transformed image travels from monitor to monitor, it is subjected to further abstractions, not in a cumulative fashion, but at random moments. The cycling images are reflected and reinforced by two other elements of the piece: layers of wire mesh mounted on each wall, and electronic sounds--created by square wave generators--which pan sound around the gallery by means of a multi-channel system. The relationship between the panning sound, the grid variations of the wire mesh and the video images places the viewer inside a structurally resonant system of tactile and conceptual experience.

After exhibiting his sculpture for several years, Gary Hill (b. 1951, Santa Monica, Ca.) became interested in the video medium. Since 1973, his work has taken the form of videotapes and installations that incorporate video imagery and sound. Gary Hill has been an artist-in-residence at the Artists TV Lab in Rhinebeck and Portable Channel in Rochester and has produced work for the TV Lab at WNET/13 in New York City. He is currently a visiting professor at the Center for Media Study, SUNY Buffalo. He has received grants for his video work from the NEA, NYSCA, WNET/13 and CAPS and has been awarded prizes at the Athens, Ohio International Film and Video Festival (1976 and 1978) and the Ithaca Video Festival (1977, 1978 and 1979). Two recent tapes, Sums and Differences and Elements, were featured at the Museum of Modern Art in its Projects series. Writing on these tapes, Ann Wooster of the Village Voice noted that "In recent years Gary Hill's abstract videotapes have become tighter and more refined. He has taken the risk of using black and white, relying on its elegance and precision to outweigh the sensual punch that color automatically brings."