

# The Museum of Modern Art

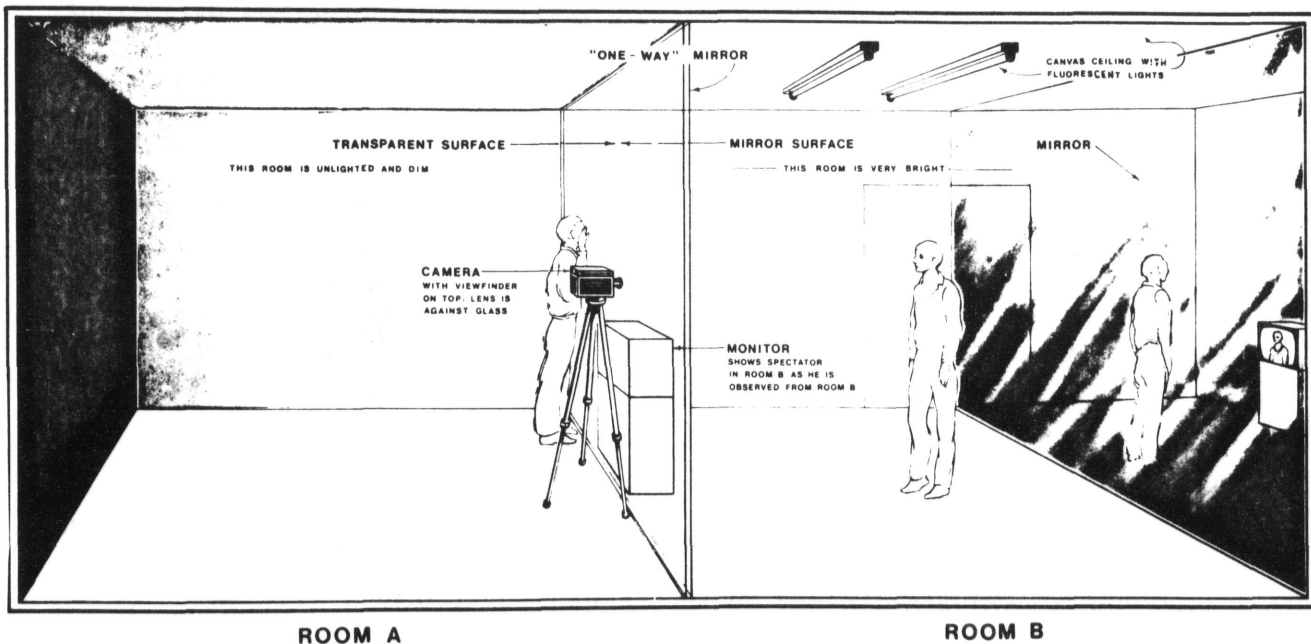
50th Anniversary



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## "TWO VIEWING ROOMS" TO OPEN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

TWO VIEWING ROOMS by Dan Graham, a video installation occupying adjacent galleries, will open in the Auditorium Gallery at The Museum of Modern Art on December 5, 1980. Directed by Barbara London of the Video Program, the installation will be on view until January 13, 1981.



TWO VIEWING ROOMS alters visual and spatial perceptions by monitoring audience responses to these perceptual changes through closed-circuit video and mirror images. In a darkened room (A), the audience assumes the role of voyeur, observing the behavior of other museum visitors in a well-lighted room (B), through either a transparent two-way mirror, or the viewfinder of a video camera mounted on a pedestal. Viewers in Room B are confronted with their own images, which appear "live" on a video monitor and reflected in two opposing mirrored walls. Changing a viewer's

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experience of subjective and objective reality, together the video image and mirror image offer an altered perception of self-image and of spatial perspective. Significantly, it is the video camera and monitor which articulate the relationship between the behavioral phenomena observed in Room A, and the mirrors through which perceptual phenomena are altered in Room B.

Over the last ten years, much of Graham's work has explored visual consciousness, as it relates to spatial and temporal perception; has questioned subjective and objective reality; and has examined phenomenological awareness. He has used the mediums of film, photography, installation, video, performance, and bookworks. His films are perceptual exercises that use the medium as a tool to relate the performer's viewpoint to that of the spectator. In Graham's video performances, the simultaneous playback of the video image allows further investigations of visual, spatial, and temporal perspectives.

Dan Graham has been instrumental in applying video to live performance and installation situations reflecting complex, theoretical foundations, his work has been shown in one-man and group exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. He has written extensively on such themes as the function of broadcast television and the implications of video in architecture, and has proposed two-way informational feedback projects for local cable television systems. Born in Urbana, Illinois in 1942, Dan Graham studied philosophy at Columbia University. He has taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, and in 1976 received a DAAD fellowship to work in Berlin.

November 1980

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