

The Museum of Modern Art

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INASMUCH AS IT IS ALWAYS ALREADY TAKING PLACE

October 19, 1990 - January 6, 1991

Gary Hill's video installation, *INASMUCH as it is Always Already Taking Place*, premieres at The Museum of Modern Art on October 19, 1990. The installation consists of cathode ray tubes, the light-emitting elements of television monitors, piled randomly in a nest of wires on a table. Varying in size, the tubes are stripped of their casings and emit images of parts of the human anatomy. The installation is on view through January 6, 1991.

By reducing the television set to its essential element--the tube--Hill explores how the physical structures of video equipment dominate the medium's form and, to some extent, its content. The static images on the tubes and a soundtrack of barely audible phrases create an incessant, however fragmentary, presence in the installation.

Gary Hill has produced a large body of both single-channel works and multi-media installations. In them he explores the relationship between image and language and focuses on the presence of his own physicality. In his five-channel installation *Crux* (1983-87), for example, Hill's head, hands, and feet are separately framed on monitors suspended from the ceiling and arranged to suggest a crucifix, robot, or puppet. In *Why Do Things Get in a Muddle? (Come on Petunia)* (1984), based on texts by Gregory Bateson and Lewis Carroll, the actors were taped while actually speaking and performing backwards. The tape was then edited to run in reverse--to return the action to "forward" motion--

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so that the dialogue and movements, though recognizable, are distorted and dreamlike.

Born in 1951 in Santa Monica, California, Gary Hill was educated at the Art Students League in Woodstock, New York, working first with sculpture and, in 1973, turning to video. He has received many grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, including an NEA Japan/United States Cultural Exchange Fellowship. In Japan, Hill was an artist-in-residence at the Sony Corporation in Tokyo. His works have been exhibited at numerous museums and alternative spaces, including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Long Beach Museum of Art, California; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. The artist currently lives in Seattle, Washington, where he teaches at the Cornish College of the Arts.

INASMUCH as it is Always Already Taking Place was organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film. The exhibition is made possible by the Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art. The Museum's video programs are made possible by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, and with the support of the Sony Corporation of America.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.