

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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