

I think we should be happy to talk about images and not about decisive steps or decisions we make. I think the question of identity is already posed when you see that artists are not and people who are dealing with video itself are not taking part in the discussion and this cause is negatively defined.

There was one decisive moment in 1972 when people started making videos. You will notice the discussions about videos and the concepts about video suddenly stopped and didn't come up again until the early 80's.

Also the question of identity is negatively defined when you look at what happened in Germany when a certain kind of nationalism came up during the last two years and this nationalism was interpreted as anti-Americanism which it is in a way, it has to be.

You can only keep your identity drawing strong borderlines and making yourself a stronghold of your arguments, whether they are true or not. I think the question of identity is not going to be decided on any theoretic level, on the level of discourse, on the level of politics, because I think there is nobody who would be able to make decisions to build the roads into a future where you can rebuild identity or something like that. I think, as already mentioned in my exposeé, that the question of identity is going to be decided on the level of the subconscious and if you look around you have all these narcissistic tendencies. One has gatherings of people with everybody talking but no development of a discussion. There is no dialogue between people. There are just people talking and other people talking, a collection of opinions and arguments without real discussion.

I also think that N:Y; is the center of media and also the center of sado-masochism shows that both things are somehow related.


Lastly I would like to refer to another problem which also shows how difficult the discussion is. You cannot formulate any solutions. That is the problem of video critic, presentation of video in newspapers and magazines.

The biggest obstacle in producing video critic is, that there is hardly any chance to either find the description that would come up with an adequate metaphor or something that would give you an idea of what the video is about.

Secondly, it's difficult to find images or to find photos or reproductions of videos to give the reader an imagination of what the videos are like. Real problems begin when there are people working in video and they are finding the solutions in video and they are criticising things in themselves so that the medium becomes kind of a self contained entity.

There are people who write about video, the dinosaurs of literacy, and they are trying to defend their territory as long as it is possible.

I don't think the future is very bright for solving problems by discussing about them.



I as an american hearing a discussion of the european problem have a great deal of sympathy for the problems of identity, especially against the pressures of the commercial advantages and domination of the american scene.

But I would like to point out that artists are artists everywhere over the world including the USA and we have many problems in common. I think that has to be thought about above Europe or a special nation.

I live in a land, New York, where every 10 years a whole new cultural group takes over. The land that is now 46% asiatic and southamerican and the rest is a mixture of blacks and every other kind of european make-up. It's very hard to know what our identity is. But my identity as an artist is not confused, in sense I know my values and what I'm trying to express about humanity and that I share with everybody in the world and so do my students I teach.

My solution and my dedication to the notion of an artist with sensibilities that the world provides today, the range of sensibilities that are possible for the artist minus country, minus background (because our background is very tenous so we can let it go here and there); is to for instance run a program in video art which is taught by italians. Americans taught by italians, bring them to N.Y. and back and forth.

I think that this is the way to deal with the values and artistic values that are presented to us in the use and in the exchange of this kind.