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First announcement  
Preparation for the On Line Locarno 1998 Colloquium (July-November)

<http://www.tinet.ch/videoart>

This letter is addressed to you who, personally, have participated in the LOCARNO VideoAr Festival, a great adventure that - for some twenty years now - has annually assembled artist writers, cultural officials, and thinkers to take stock of the latest changes in a society mutating at an accelerated pace.

Today, the astounding rate of development of networks, and especially of the INTERNET, requires of our planet a calling into question that does not spare - dares not spare - any of us. In point of fact, is a whole new civilization taking shape? That, indeed, is the key question, is what is at stake.

In any case, the Locarno VideoArt Festival is firmly decided to contribute as much as it can to the undertaking, with the support of all those who have ensured its existence until now: artist writers, thinkers, together with international institutions such as UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and with the Swiss federal, cantonal and communal authorities.

This message then is an appeal for your personal opinion on the five main challenges the INTERNET presents:-

- 1) How can the negative effects of globalization be avoided?
- 2) How can a new education program be developed?
- 3) How can a new ethical code be developed?
- 4) How can new artistic creativity be developed?
- 5) How can new relationships be established between men, techniques, societies, economies, political systems, and cultures, in view of the cybercivilization that lies ahead?

These questions belong directly to the same train of thought governing the LOCARNO colloquiums held until now, all of which have attempted a periodic assessment of a situation evolving more rapidly with each passing year.

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Your replies and comments, even short ones, will serve as the basis for the actual (off-line) colloquium, to take place in LUIGANO at the University of Italian-speaking Switzerland, next November. They will also appear in a publication foreseen for the event. Please send your responses by end-September, if possible.

This survey is organized by the Locarno VideoArt Festival and l'Association Internationale pour la Video dans les arts et la culture (AIVAC), in collaboration with the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL: <http://www.epfl.ch/>) and the University of Italian-speaking Switzerland (USI: <http://www.lu.usi.ti-edu.ch/com/index.htm>). It is being conducted with an eye to allowing former Locarno VideoArt Festival participants to formulate the OPENMINDEDNESS that is theirs, and that alone can fuel the responsible and creative approach required for at the outset of the 21st century.

René Berger, Rinaldo Bianda  
Lausanne-Locarno, June 6 1998

Links to the personality invited on this project:

[Colloquium 1980/1997](#)

[Selection Committees of Competitions 1980/1997](#)

[Festival Jury 1980/1997](#)

[Awards 1980/1997](#)

[Lasers d'Or 1980/1997](#)