

# video art

XXII FESTIVAL ET FORUM INTERNATIONAL DE LA VIDÉO,  
DES ARTS ÉLECTRONIQUES ET DE LA NOUVELLE CULTURE ÉMERGENTE

LOCARNO - LAGHI 2001

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## **From Monte Verità to Monte Sacro Orta**

The 2001 edition of the VideoArt Festival of Locarno and the Lakes opens with an event that determines an historic change in the tradition of this manifestation and consists of a donation to AIVAC of structures, animated cartoons, library, cinema and new technology. This is an extraordinary endowment in the 20 year history of contemporary avant-garde art converged from Locarno's festival. It is in this way that the acquisition enters in territory officially European that today can be considered important material of research and thorough study. With the publication of "L'Art Video 1980-1999 Vingt ans du VideoArt Festival, Locarno-Recherches, theories, perspectives" curated by Vittorio Fagone, the Festival has reached a first aim of historic and documentary interpretation of the different international artistic productions that have characterized it. The realization of the new Centro Operativo del Festival in the offices of AIVAC, in close collaboration with the department Creativita' Estetica e Ipermedia della Fondazione Novalia, wants to open the Festival not only for the duration of the conference, of the performance, of the Video Installations, Video-Ambienti, Multimedia events, and of the speeches, but it wants to involve a more vast public to that which is the artistic experience of the "School of Locarno".

Two things will be the actual interpretive forces in this edition. The first, in the city of Verbania, centered on the complex creative experience of artists that have worked in the past 21 editions, from the 80's until today, through a multimedia and creative revisitation of the "school of Locarno" curated by Lorenzo Bianda. The second encounter, in the historic center of Orta San Giulio, that intends to define precisely, with heightened incisiveness, the interaction between cinema, video, photography and performance actually exponentially catalyzed by the effects of innovative technology in the more vast panorama of esthetic creativity and international culture. This realization also will be under the emblem of the "School of Locarno" with a video conceived by Lucio Cabutti during the show "Rodolfo Valentino. Mito divismo e cinema nell'industria mediatica fra Europa ed America". Thus, we are able to visualize in the new cyberspace of the Palazzotto di Orta San Giulio, the historic images of the myth par excellence as illustrated by the cinematographic legend, Rudolph Valentino. At the same time, we can reflect upon the contribution and evolution of the artistic communication between innovative technology and philosophic symbols in the quaternary period through the valuable endowment that the Festival has put together thanks to the far-sighted promotion of Rinaldo Bianda to whom we want to dedicate this edition.

The two artistic and methodological approaches that will be the exploratory base and the formative research stages that the Fondazione Novalia unites with AIVAC will be developed in the course of the year 2001. Also, this edition of the Festival can boast of the prestigious Grand Prize from the city of Locarno of FrS10,000 for the traditional international video contest in which there will be placed contemporaneously other video sections dedicated to the grand masters among whom: Bill Viola (USA), Nam June Paik (USA), Dalibor Martinis (YU), and a special program dedicated to young european artists curated by nKA (YU).

**Matilde Pugnetti, Festival Director**