

EARLY VIDEO ART
FROM THE USW
COLLECTION

with live performances by

DR. HAMBURGER
+ SHONEN BOOK

USW SALON • FEBRUARY 24, 2022

**VSW Salon Schedule
February 24, 2022**

6-7PM

Open Studios with Project Space Residents Meredith Davenport, Jenn Poggi & Josh Meltzer

7-9PM

Early Video Art from the VSW Archive with live performances by *VJ Dr. Hamburger* and *shonen book* (in-person at VSW and online via twitch.tv)

About the Program

The early video collection at VSW includes more than 4,000 videotapes in eight different formats. In 2019, VSW created an in-house digitization lab, and has digitized more than 200 of the earliest tapes in the collection. Early Video Art from the VSW Collection will showcase recently digitized works by experimental video artists Sherry Miller, Vibeke Sorensen, Ralph Hocking, Walter Wright and more.

Live-performances by:

Dr. Hamburger is one of the creative forces behind The Psychic Garden and has been creating audio/visual weirdo content for over 15 years. Their current set up intertwines cv from a modular synthesizer and feeds it into the visual software VDMX. Dr. Hamburger plays with both audio and video feedback to create an intense meditative journey.

shonen book is a two person team using analog equipment and digital video games to merge the boundaries of screens, sounds, and play. Based in Rochester, NY. Earth signs.

Program

1. *Sandy's Dream*

Portable Channel

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
3:00. Color; sound. 1974

2. *Sheep*

Steve Kolpan

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
6:00. B&W; sound. 1975

3. *Selected Works 1975 - 1978 (excerpts)*

Ralph Hocking and Sherry Miller

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
11:00. Color; sound. 1979

4. *Paper Shoes*

Walter Wright

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
8:00. Color; sound. 1972

5. *Temple (from Videocean)*

Vibeke Sorensen

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
4:30. Color; sound. 1975

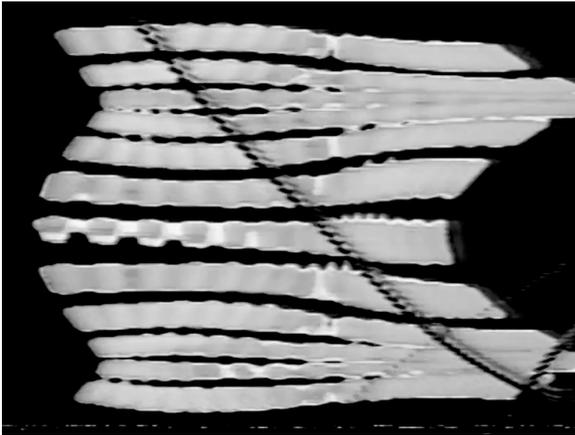
6. *Homemade TV: The Electronic Image*

Portable Channel, Woody Vasulka, Steina Vasulka

Original Format: EIAJ-1 1/2" open reel
27:00. Color; sound. 1975

7. *shonen book real-time glitch performance*

8. *Dr. Hamburger live performance*



still from Walter Wright's *Paper Shoes* (1972)

Walter Wright on early video art

Musicians of course have their instrument and they play them and that's how it works. Visual artists, we always had to put it on film. That was the only alternative to making movies, moving images. [With video] it was nice, it was a visual instrument, an exciting thing, it was immediate. You got immediate feedback. You didn't have to wait for it to come back to the lab. Video was a very interesting medium, there was an immediacy to it.

As Ralph [Hocking] said, "You just turn it on and turn it off half an hour later." You didn't need to think about pre-composing things, you could do things in real time. You interacted with people and the space in real time. [...]

It was never our intention to be in an art gallery. It was really just a medium we were having a lot of fun exploring, and sharing. It wasn't designed in a traditional way, it didn't have a keyboard. You didn't fit in with anybody's definition of what should happen, you just made up your own way.

For the full interview with Wright, visit vsw.org.

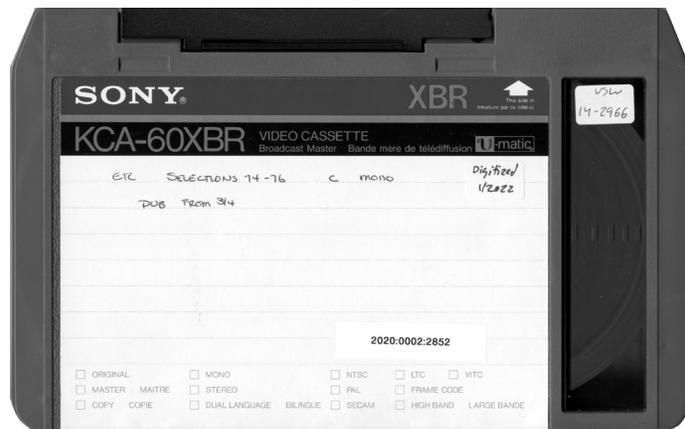


still from *Sandy's Dream*, Portable Channel (1974)

Common Magnetic Video Formats found in the USW Collection



EIAJ-1 1/2 inch open reel
Introduced in 1969
Used for in-studio and field recording until the late 70s/early 80s



3/4 inch U-matic
Introduced in 1971
Originally developed for industrial and education uses. Widely used by artists and community organizations in the 80s and 90s



Betamax
Introduced in 1975
Designed for use in schools and for consumer markets. Used by artists throughout the 80s



Hi8
Introduced in 1976
Developed for consumer use and still (rarely) used today. Competed against Betamax and won



8mm (Video8 and Hi8)
Introduced in 1984
Developed for the consumer and education markets. Hi8 camcorders were commercially available into the 2000s



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