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Dan Walworth
Artist's Space
223 West Broadway
New York, New York 10013

Dear Dan:

It was nice to see you last month at the NYSCA conference in Saratoga Springs. That whole thing was well done and quite informational, I thought. I was glad to learn that you are at Artist's Space and are interested in installation work. As I told you, I have been putting off (for no reason other than procrastination) for several years, sending info about my installation work to the Gallery. Attached you will find photos, slides, some reviews, and other written material as well as a resume indicating my activities, etc.

The video tape documents four installations done over the past three years. None of this work has been shown in New York; I have shown my films at the Museum of Modern Art, The Collective, Millennium, and elsewhere in the City, but I have never shown the installation work. I would be interested in reconstructing the first piece and the last piece on the tape for an exhibition. Those respective works are titled, "Abusive Amusement" 1985, and "I'm Glad to the Brink of Fear" 1986, respectively. The tape is third generation VHS and is not very clear, but I think you can get the idea. The sound on the first piece is not conclusive; but is a section of a two hour tape of political information comparing Vietnam and Central America as well as other, non-specific information such as sections of the sound tracks from the 1942 movies "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" and "Bataan". The sound tracks are looped and placed over each other. Lots of sound versions. The last work on the tape is simply a wall with two 19 inch monitors with an image of Reagan and Gorby slowed on a ratio of 5 seconds to two hours. The original footage is from the summit in Geneva in November '85. It is silent. Both pieces are site specific in terms of size; but "Abusive Amusement" is usually at least 18'x10'.

However... I am in the process of designing a new installation work; part of which is in a group sculpture show at Fourteen Sculptors Gallery on Mercer Street. The show opens this weekend and is up through Jan. 3. The piece in the show is a column containing five video monitors on which there is a dominant image of a computer generated, rotating classical column. Mixed with this is text, flames, and self-reflexive references to the history of sculpture for this show. (the sculptors will probably be provoked into taking a hammer to my piece as a result, so see it soon). This column is part of a larger work titled "Empira" which

is basically comprised of a second column of five monitors and an overhead frieze containing video figures depicting the decline of the empire. Our empire.

"Empira" is on the drawing board and has materialized just this past week in the form of this one column. I have lots of gouache on paper drawings of the installation which I would love to show you. I have been working on the design of "Empira" since May of this year; I would love to go into production on it. This first column is a start. The piece will be large and will require site specific dimensions.

I know the space at Artist's Space and would love the chance to work with it. I know that sometimes the basement is used for installations as well as the main gallery. I can work where ever there is an opportunity to do so.

I am not sending my last film "Aspects of a Certain History" 1984, 60 min; as I thought you said you've seen it. If you would like I'd be glad to send down a print.

Thanks for your interest. I'd love to come down and show you some plans for "Empira". Perhaps we could then look at the column at the Fourteen Sculptors Gallery as well.

I hope to talk to you soon.



John Knecht
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