

The Mazola Quaternary  
John S. Gordon 1973  
Mixed Media Light Installation  
54" x 120" x 120" (approx.)

This installation consists of a room, approximately 15ft. x 20ft., isolated from the rest of the gallery. Centered on the wall opposite the entrance is a structure consisting of four still photographs from commercial television, each shielded by a pane of glass. This structure is illuminated directly by a high-intensity ultraviolet light source, located in a fixture set in the center of the room. The light source projects its own structure and attitude and completes the installation.

This is a piece about situation, energy, attitude, and limits. The room is a charged space with the intention of paradox. Several levels of formal structure overlay each other in differing degrees of solidity and symmetry: the mirror image photographs, the actual outline of the glass, the projected shadow outline of the glass, the grid projected by the lamp, and the line of the lamp fixture itself. The certainty and dependability of these structures are directly challenged by several less tangible facets of the work: the cold, vibrant power of the light, the curious content of the video stills, and the way in which the intensity of the light seems to dissolve the photographs while simultaneously activating the situation. It is in this play between dependability and uncertainty, between formalization and dissolution, between completion and fragmentation, that the piece exists.

John S. Gordon  
Venice, California  
1977