



DARCY LANGE: Video Works

Presentation by Mercedes Vicente



Monday, May 3, 2010
6:30 pm

Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI)
535 West 22nd Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10011
www.eai.org

Admission free
Please RSVP: info@eai.org

Please join EAI for a special presentation on the video works of **Darcy Lange** (1946-2005). A pioneering but under-recognized artist who devised a unique form of socially engaged video in the 1970s, Darcy Lange created a series of remarkable studies of people at work. His distinctive practice speaks to documentary traditions as well as to conceptual and structuralist videomaking. Mercedes Vicente, curator of contemporary art at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Zealand, will discuss and present a selection of Lange's rarely seen video works.

Dan Graham writes: "Darcy Lange was a very important artist from the politically motivated video artistic generation of the 1970s...I think of Darcy as a late 20th century Gustave Courbet—a man of the New Zealand countryside who became an 'avant-garde,' urban, political artist. Like the 'post-hippie,' late '60s video artists, he used video not only as documentary, but as part of a learning process. Through the use of video feedback, Darcy sought to effect change in the people who were his subjects...Now is the right moment to fully appreciate Darcy's work." (Dan Graham, "Darcy Lange: Great Artist and Friend," from *Darcy Lange: Study of an Artist at Work*, 2008.)

Born in New Zealand in 1946, Lange's practice included sculpture, film, video, and photography. He began using video in 1972 in Birmingham, England, where he first initiated his seminal *Work Studies* project. In these recordings of individuals at work, Lange captured the everyday activities of labor—in factories, schools and farms in the UK, Spain and New Zealand. Employing the immediacy and "real time" capabilities of video, he recorded in single takes for extended durations; the studies were largely unedited and unmediated. He also explored the notion of feedback, often incorporating his subjects' reactions to the recordings into the work. Lange's *Work Studies in Schools* (1976-77) is an extraordinary series in which he recorded teachers in classrooms in Oxfordshire and Birmingham. He then played back the tapes and documented the teachers' and students' reactions to them, to activate a "process of teaching and learning." Excerpts from these series will be screened as part of the presentation.

Throughout his video work, Lange engaged in a critical investigation into the politics of the moving image and relation of the camera, subject, and the spectator; in his words, he sought to "keep questioning the nature and power of realism."

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In 2006 a comprehensive survey of Lange's work, entitled *Darcy Lange: Study of an Artist at Work*, was organized by Mercedes Vicente for the Govett-Brewster Gallery in New Zealand. The exhibition *Work Studies in Schools* was presented at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, UK in 2008-09. An accompanying publication, edited by Vicente and including essays by Benjamin D. H. Buchloh, Dan Graham and Guy Brett, among others, was published in 2008. In 2010, Vicente curated exhibitions of Langens works for Cabinet, Brooklyn; Yale University School of Art Gallery, New Haven; Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana; Camera Austria, Graz, and the Slought Foundation, Philadelphia.

Mercedes Vicente is the Curator of Contemporary Art at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Zealand. Prior to her current position, Vicente was an independent curator and art critic living in New York City, where she held curatorial positions in several art institutions, including the Whitney Museum of American Art. At Govett-Brewster, Vicente has curated numerous exhibitions, including *From Mini-FM to Hacktivists: A Guide to Art and Activism* (2005); *Darcy Lange: Study of an Artist at Work* (2006); *Activating Korea: Tides of Collective Action* (2007), with INSA Art Space, Seoul, and the Javier Téllez project "Intermission" (2009). She is co-curator, with Helen Legg, of *Darcy Lange: Work Studies in Schools* (2008) at Ikon. Vicente has contributed to many publications and written on Louise Bourgeois, Andrea Fraser and Martha Rosler.

About EAI: Founded in 1971, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is one of the world's leading nonprofit resources for video art. A pioneering advocate for media art and artists, EAI's core program is the distribution and preservation of a major collection of over 3,500 new and historical media works by artists. EAI fosters the creation, exhibition, distribution and preservation of video art and digital art. EAI's activities include a preservation program, viewing access, educational services, extensive online resources, and public programs such as artists' talks, exhibitions and panels. The Online Catalogue is a comprehensive resource on the artists and works in the EAI collection, and also features extensive materials on exhibiting, collecting and preserving media art: www.eai.org

