

Peter Callas *Initialising History*

Exhibition Dates: 20 March - 2 May 1999

Opening: Friday 19 March 6 - 8 pm

Video art has come a long way since its inception in the 60s. Today it's not only one of the most popular of all art media but is rapidly changing under the influence of newer, digital technologies. *Initialising History* presents a comprehensive summary of these developments with particular focus on Australia's leading video art practitioner **Peter Callas**.

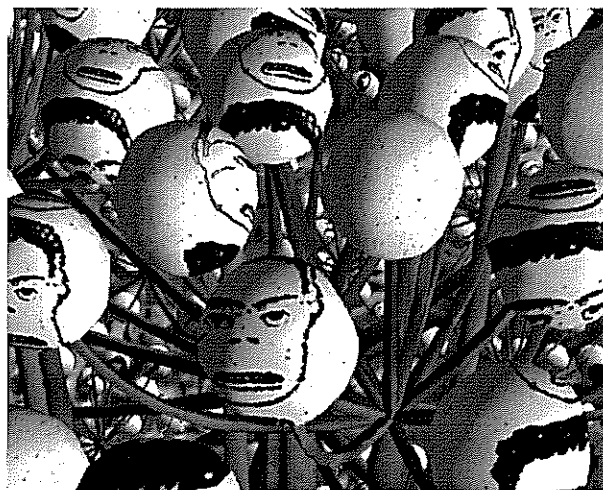
Callas was invited by dLux media arts to compile a 3 part program which includes a survey of Australian video art since 1980 (*An Eccentric Orbit*), a selection of international television and computer art highlights (*Peripheral Visions*), as well as a selection of his own groundbreaking videos from 1980 to 1999 (*Initialising History*).

An Eccentric Orbit

A program of 30 titles by Australian artists spanning 1980 to 1994 which has been touring internationally since it was launched at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It shows the vitality and quality of Australian video art in an international context including titles by Stelarc, Jill Scott, Philip Brophy, Ross Harley and Bill Seaman.

Peripheral Visions

Features 13 titles most of which have never been seen in Australia by the video, TV and computer artists from around the world. Since the demise of the Australian Video Festival in 1992, there has been little opportunity to survey current trends in video. This program illustrates the continuing influence of video practice at the 'periphery' of mainstream culture including titles by Yoshitaka Shimano, Tamás Waliczky and Christian Boustani.



Peter Callas, *Lost in Translation*, work in progress. Part I, Plus Ultra, colour BetacamSP video, 6:00 mins, 1999, Karlsruhe/Brazil/Sydney

Initialising History

Features 12 works which span the 20+ year career of Peter Callas including his latest work in progress *Lost in Translation*. Petr's work has been presented world wide including BB2 in the UK, Canal + in France, and NHK Satellite in Japan. Lori Zippay, Director of Electronic Arts Intermix of New York remarked of the program: 'Resonating at once with humour, dislocation and loss, Callas' vivid surfaces serve as an ironic yet poignant illuminated manuscript, a brilliantly illustrated map of global media culture in the late C20th.'

The 3 programs run concurrently at ACCA providing an opportunity for viewers to survey the breadth of Australian and international video art practice through the eyes of Australia's leading contributor.

Presented in conjunction with dLux media arts, Sydney.

PUBLIC LECTURE

The curator and featured artist of *Initialising History* **Peter Callas** will speak on video art including his own practice at ACCA on **Saturday 17 April at 5.30 pm**.

Tickets \$5.00 / \$3.00 (concession)

Bookings are essential as seating is limited

Telephone ACCA on 9654 6422

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra 3141

Gallery Hours: Tues to Fri 11 - 5 Sat and Sun 12 - 5 acca@adm.monash.edu.au

ACCA is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet. ACCA is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Affiliated with Monash University.