

## **POEM EVENT**

**(A work for video consisting of a 'room' of burning sheets of paper. printed with the word 'POEM')**

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A large number of these sheets printed with the word 'POEM' (in large letters) have been made (off-set). ..these sheets are to be spread out in large rectangles, so that rectangles of about 8 feet x 6 feet are made. The individual sheets of printed paper are joined one to another to form these rectangles, by joining them at their backs with strips of masking tape. Seven of these large sheets are taken and hung in relation to one another so that 2 rooms are constructed, which share a common wall.

Suppose that the two twin rooms have a common length of A feet and a common breadth of B feet. ..then the length of the combined rooms should be designated as 'Side' & the breadth as \*End\*. Obviously, there will be Side1 & Side2. . and. . End1 & End2.

.....

The following plan for the work ... consists of one particular set of variations. . at any time the work as constituted can be varied to accomodate specific location or specific requirements.

Having set the work up. . . and having at hand an assistant. . . approach the work from one end . . on approaching the end set the video camera rolling . . walk right up to end ( wall) . . . holding the camera In front of your face, use the camera (still rolling) to batter a way through the wall of paper. . . continue (person and camera) right through wall into the actual paper walled room ('POEM'). Stop. Gradually rotate the camera to the angle of about 180 degrees in front of the body. . so that the unimpinged walls immediately in front of the lens of the camera and on either side of your person are taken in. This part of the work could occur rather slowly. While this is being done. the assistant should approach the Side1 of the wall (the left side wall of the rooms from the point of entry into the room) and fire that side of room no 1. Firing of the wall should be done from a point outside of the room

As the wall catches fire. . and as the fire spreads. . the video camera should be swung onto the burning walls. In other words. . the video camera will be moved rapidly to quiet contemplation of the ' POEM STATMENT' to an abrupt record of a conflagration. As soon as the wall (or walls) are alight, the cameraman should move into action. Once again using the camera as a weapon. . the wall immediately separating the two rooms should be battered down. . . so that the cameraman can escape the fires encroaching on his position in the first room. As the cameraman raises his camera to batter down the dividing wall . . .the assistant should proceed to the End wall (End2) of the 2nd room. . this wall should be ignited as the first wall was. . so that as the cameraman bursts out of the first room he is confronted by this wall of flame at the end of the 2nd Room, He should on immediately entering this 2nd Room stand stock still, and use the camera to record this new development. As the fire really begins, to consume the room. . he should move to the left of the 2nd room

(Continuation Side1) and proceed to batter his way out of the room entirely ... by this time the whole rooms complex should be going up. . . and he had better get out fast.

The whole event. . . in its every detail should have been recorded on the video camera

M.PARR (August 1971)

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