

L 88-9

GB touring funds were made available to the Department of Film, Video and Broadcasting to support an expansion of the activities of the Film and Video Umbrella.

The Film and Video Umbrella was initially established in 1985 to provide programmes of time-based work by artists to the network of Regional Film Theatres. 30K from GB touring funds has enabled this service to be extended to large and small-scale galleries in the regions, with a new emphasis on promoting video art and 'sculptural' video installations. Most galleries work to an 18-month to 2-year programme run-up time, so the effectiveness of this initiative will be best-measured over a 2-3 year span, but the data supplied by the Umbrella suggests that the impact is already substantial.

In the year prior to expansion (87-88) the Umbrella organised 4 major film tours to Regional Film Theatres:

Alchemists of the Surreal (Surrealist Cinema and its Influence) 9 venues. 27 screenings.

Art in Cinema (a brief survey of Avant-Garde Cinema 1920-80) 6 venues. 66 screenings.

Junk Aesthetics ('Collage' and 'Found-Footage' Films) 14 venues. 51 screenings.

Deeper into the Labyrinth (Films by Jan Svankmajer and the Brothers Quay) 10 venues. 37 screenings. Two single-venue events were also organised.

In the first year after expansion (88-9) the Umbrella organised 4 major film tours and 6 video tours and began work on a large number of projects which will bear fruit in 89-90 and beyond.

Film Tours:

Hold Me While I'm Naked (the films of Mike and George Kuchar) 18 venues. 35 screenings.

Rituals in Transfigured Time (films by Maya Deren; and her influence) 10 venues. 29 screenings.

The Austere Gaze (films by Peter Gidal; and his influence) 1 venue. 21 screenings.

DADADADA (Dada films, ancient and modern) 8 venues. 26 screenings.

Video Tours:

A Thoughtful Gaze (Tapes by Bill Viola) 9 venues. 18

screenings.

Electric Eyes (New British Video Art) 14 venues. 41 screenings.

The Observatory (Selection of European Performance-Related Video Art) 4 venues. (tapes continuously available)

Made in Scotland (Video Art from Scottish Colleges) 1 venue in London. 3 abroad. 4 screenings.

Intermental 9 Herz von Europa (European Video Art 'Magazine') 2 venues (tapes continuously available)

Beban/Horvatic (Tapes by Yugoslav Video Artists) 1 venue. lecture/exhibition.

During 88-89 the Umbrella also conducted a Survey of Galleries probing attitudes to the presentation of video art and exploring technical/curatorial problems. A day-symposium was held in Liverpool to follow-up from this survey and to begin the work of building up a circuit of galleries. The Umbrella acted as advisor to the successful Video Positive 89 Festival in Liverpool and is collaborating with Cornerhouse, Manchester on a major video project for 1990.