ICA

ICA GALLERY
ICA CINEMA
ICA THEATRE

ICA VIDEO LIBRARY/CINEMATHEQUE

AG/ICA.VL/01.31.

The Video Library at the Institute of Contemporary Arts is a unique
development, the first of its kind in Britain. The aim is to make available
to the general public a wide range of video-tapes concerned with the arts
which at present receive little or no exposure.

Due to open in April 1981, the Video Library will emerge from the recon-
struction of the former ICA Cinema into two distinct spaces: the first
being a 200-seater conventional format cinema; the second a cinemathque.
The Cinemathque will double to house the day-time viewing space of the
Video Library and the evening screening of experimental and expanded cinema
work on 8mm and 16mm formats, as well as video and performance installments.

The collection will be stored on the new Philips 2000 system, a high quality
domestic format capable of storing up to 2000 tapes, thus providing the
potential for a substantial collection to be built up at a relatively
low cost.

Visitors to the ICA will make a viewing request by reference to a detailed
catalogue of the material in the collection, pay the appropriate fee ( a
suggested minimum of £1.00 per hour rising by 50p per half-hour unit), and
be directed to a monitor in the viewing space in which the tapes will be
replayed from the control room.

The Library will not lend, hire or sell video-tapes but where appropriate
will provide information which may direct intending hirers/buyers to the
originating producer or distributor. In addition it is intended that the
Library will have a reference section of catalogues, periodicals and other
published material relating to video. It is envisaged that the Library will
become a focal point for research, exchange and discussion of new initiatives
in this rapidly growing area of contemporary culture.

Selection of material will be the responsibility of the ICA and the principal
aim will be to secure material relating to cultural life including artist's
video, film transferred to video, documentary, educational and broadcast
material. The collection will be built up through a process of continuous
acquisition with tapes lodged for an initial two-year period, renewable at
the option of both the ICA and the tape producer.

The Library will not purchase tapes outright but producers whose work is
selected for inclusion in the collection will be reimbursed through an
annual royalties scheme related to the box-office earnings of each tape.

The ICA seeks the support of artists, producers and others with an interest
in the development of video, both in the UK and abroad, to help the Video
Library fulfill its potential.

Research and development of the Video Library is being undertaken by
Alex. Graham in conjunction with Archie Tait, Cinema Director at the ICA,
and any information, comments and suggestions of relevance to this project
are welcome.

The new Cinema, Cinematheque and Video Library at the Institute of
Contemporary Arts are being made possible with the financial support of
the British Film Institute, the Arts Council of Great Britain, the Greater
London Council, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Baring Foundation,
Philips Industries Ltd., and ICA appeal funds.

Alex. Graham
ICA Video/Cinemathque

January 1981.