

... the future of art and power.
FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MILLION YEARS...

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... we've been in training. Mother Nature, believing we're ready as we'll ever be, is slowly handing over the controls of the Earth to us. "It is now our responsibility to make it work!" We need technology to do it, and for this reason, it must be made accessible. To make it accessible we've combined the engineer and the naturalist, producing the current confrontation-love affair between our blustering technocracy and our conscious expanding artists. Two seemingly dichotomous beings, the scientist and the humanist, are at the same time battling and adoring each other. And, so, is prompted the quote from the Whole Earth people of the Portola Institute, "We are as gods and might as well get good at it." Remember, though, we were warned about god playing by the fourth century B.C. media expert, Plato, who relates the following. "Aristophanes, talking with his friends, Socrates, Eryzimachus, and others, told how originally men were supposed to have had four legs, four arms, two heads, etc. and how in time these men began to think they were something and dared to try to scale heaven and lay hands even upon the gods, and how, instead of annihilating them, Zeus finally hit upon the idea of humbling them by splitting them in tow – since when, says Aristophanes, in their loneliness the two halves have longed and searched for one another continuously." – The scientist and the humanist?

It seems obvious that in the "instantaneous electric communication age" it will be the technological media that provide the power base upon which every artist would like to stand, giving his expressions the force and impact necessary for him to be taken seriously. In 1927 E.M. Forster proclaimed, "It is science's proclivity for allying itself with the needs and demands of power that gives it such a potency for effecting change." Aren't we forgetting something? – FEEDBACK! Not only will it be easier in the coming age for the artist or the politician to get his messages to us but it will be just as easy for us, as G.B. Leonard points out, to get our reactions back to their sources and on to others. The salad bowl media, now tolerated in both traditional and avant garde musical-artistic circles, often due to the supposed sanctity of an "event", (concert, museum opening, etc.), will become less acceptable when individuals are given the option of turning off their communication network terminals. We've already seen effects of this wrought by recordings and television. The power now associated with musical and other media events will become more decentralized in the 70's.

Now our culture is involved in a quest to try to regain the wholeness of its natural being. The coming decades will see the rise of communal art and the making of more meaningful relationships among man, his natural environment, and the entire energy-information web. Cybernetics and the theory of systems will manifest themselves in rituals concerned with organisms and their information and energy exchanges with the environment. They will stimulate non-centralized expression and more profound organic interactions so needed in our currently mechanistically functional world.

Part of our environmental pollution problem today stems from the fact that very few human beings consider themselves to be part of an ecological system. Our art world parallel sees media pollution resulting from the infinitesimally small number of perceiver-participants today believing themselves a functional part of artistic happenings. We need the scientist-artists working together in what will become more personally relevant expressive worlds, creating the new Eden to house our sacred naked lovers.

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