

ICA VIDEO LIBRARY/CINEMATHEQUE

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**ICA**  
ICA GALLERY  
ICA CINEMA  
ICA THEATRE

Institute of  
Contemporary  
Arts

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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 reconstruction of the former ICA Cinema into two distinct spaces: the first being a 208-seater conventional format cinema; the second a cinematheque. The Cinematheque 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 installations.

The collection will be stored on the new Philips 2000 system, a high quality domestic format capable of storing up to 8 hours on one tape, 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 to which the tape will be relayed 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/Cinematheque

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