

Mark Bartlett

Water Waves - Time Horizon by Andrej Zdravič

Andrej Zdravič's video Installation, *Water Waves* is a captivating work and a superb example of rich artistic vision. It's ten high resolution monitors arranged horizontally in a shallow arc against a black backdrop in dim lighting mark a horizon that suggests a limit to the march of modernism. Clearly resonant with Muybridge and Marey, this installation is a Baconian examination of all varieties of water waves and simultaneously a Taoist or Zen meditation on wave motion.

Zdravič is able to transform the video installation into a complete filmic experience, enlarging, rather than reducing, our experience of the phenomena he so obsessively articulates. The monitors are not large, but when multiplied by ten, in a darkened setting, separated by short increments of void and spanning a range beyond the sixty-degree cone of vision, they become immense, full scale cinema screens in miniature.

This paradoxical scale shift is reinforced by enlarging and rigorous cropping of phenomenal events outside our usual perceptual frame of reference. As the waves appear to flow serially through the screens, the power of the wave movement actively engages us in both an emotional and analytic response. The effect is that the setting erases the technology. And what comes forward are the phenomena in all their sensuality and symbolic power.

Few outside the science community realize the significance of the wave. Most understand the power of water. Zdravič conveys that power and the conceptual power of the wave as a revolutionary model figuratively and literally underlying not only physics, but 20th century culture as a whole. He reanimates the concept-wave by reembodying it in the real time event-wave. If motion was the obsession of modernism, than Zdravič's work indicates that the fetish is now wave motion.

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