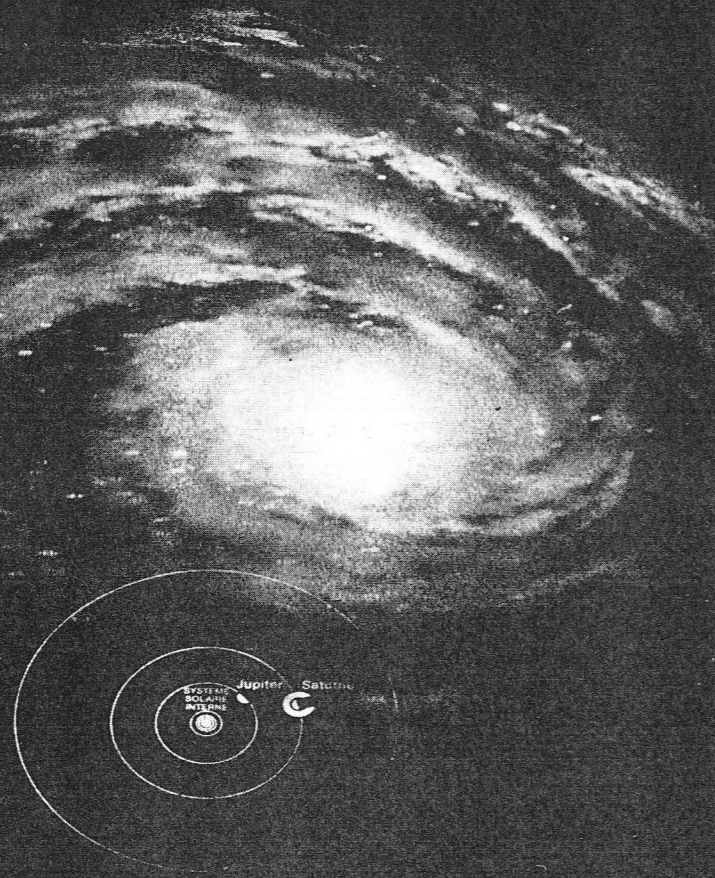


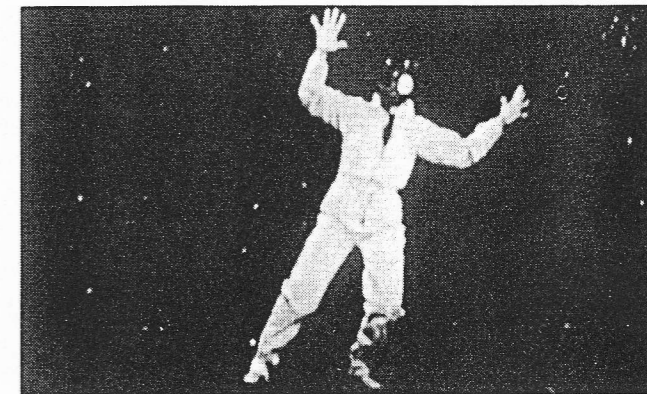
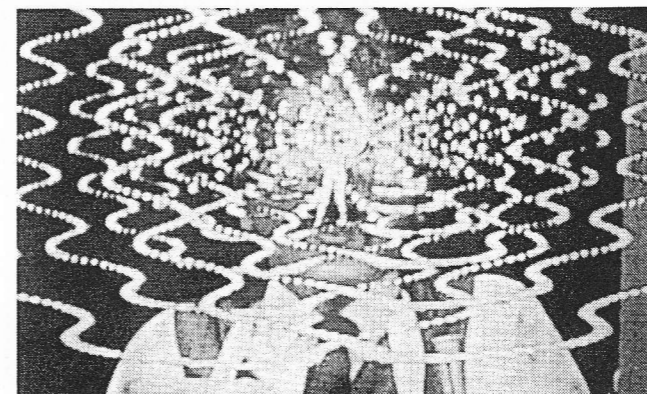
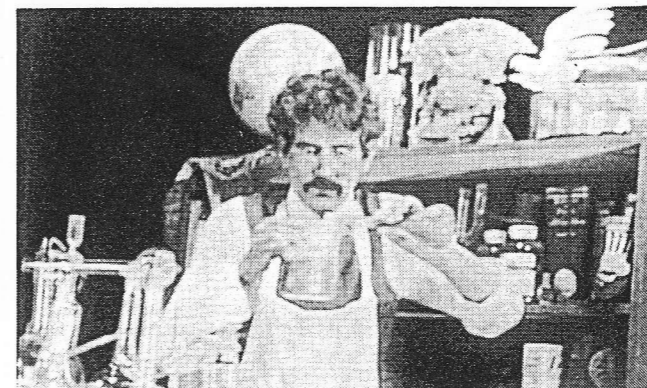
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Around the world in '84



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Computers used in stereograms



Time Man, holographic stereogram by Sharon McCormack, 1984

C. Johan Carlisle

Sharon McCormack, Director of the School of Holography, San Francisco, is a holographic artist, engineer and consultant. She has been involved in the medium since 1971, and in integral holography since 1975. The first years of her career were spent making custom lenses (clients included the University of Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France and the Oudensha Co., Japan). The cylindrical lenses are oil-filled. Because they are not made of glass, they are flexible, tunable and ideal for holographic stereograms.

McCormack's holographic stereograms now utilize computer graphics, digital video mixing and live action footage to create a holographic montage. With the aid of video editing techniques, she is able to combine live action with special effects utilizing such tools as the electronic pen and computer tablet. This enables an artist to take an image and expand or reduce it, move it anywhere

on the screen, multiply it or juxtapose it with other images from different media. McCormack's most recent work, the *Time Man*, is an example of this image-mixing technique.

In this holographic stereogram, an alchemist in his laboratory sniffs a potion and is blasted out into the universe (which is generated through computer graphics). The lab scene was shot on a rotating turntable with one-inch video. McCormack was thus able to preview the action as it would be recorded and transferred to the hologram. Elements such as the speed of rotation, the speed of the alchemist's motion and the objects in the set were previewed on the video monitor and precisely timed with the holographic transfer in mind. The lab section makes up about one half of the 360° image. A time traveler was then filmed (McCormack herself in a white jumpsuit with headgear, resembling a skydiver), also shot on a rotating stage. This was trans-

ferred onto video. In varying sequences, 14 video tapes were mixed to create the montage. For the special effects emanating from the alchemist's eyes after he sniffs the brew (a digital pattern making him look like he suddenly undergoes a magical transformation), six seconds of twinkling eyes on video were needed to yield one and a half inches of holographic film. The time traveler, who seems to spring out of the alchemist, was controlled by an electronic pen on a computer tablet: the figure was expanded from a small point in the alchemist's face to full frame. It was then reduced in size across an arc until it became a pinpoint.

The *Time Man* is currently on display at Ely McFly's, a popular restaurant and bar in California's Silicon Valley. Copies of the stereogram are available by contacting:

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