



Staff photo by Dave Trouba

Noreen Christon (left) and some of the video equipment used Tuesday night: "A symphony of chaos."

Video . . .

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A couple of assistants roamed the area with synchronized clipboards, giving the performers pre-written instructions on tabs of paper. The tabs suggested which book or activity to take up, how loud and long, etc. In this respect, Christon becomes a composer, as well as conducting from the control booth.

If one calls Christon the "composer" of "Transmission/Persistence of Vision," the piece is a symphony of chaos. Trying to make sense of the whole thing is like trying to make sense of a New York street scene. Or maybe trying to make sense of the entire current art scene. It also suggests the hub-bub of activity of a diversified, bustling art department.

A busy art school or street scene taken as a whole is usually chaotic, spontaneous and unpredictable. Recreating the chaotic nature of mass population in a normally serene, and contemplative atmosphere such as Sheldon's is not an easy feat, and is one that alienates more than a few gallerygoers. In fact, the most prevalent crowd attitude seemed to be befuddlement or at most, detached amusement.

This is understandable because confusion often occurs when one tries to make sense of a multitude of stimuli. In fact, that is the sense of the piece to me; "everything happens at once," there is no real cohesiveness in today's society or art world. The best a person can do it is accept the challenges, and pick and choose as to personal taste.

In a work such as this, the viewer sort of goes "art window shopping." You can't see everything that's going on, you might see something you don't go for, but eventually you'll see something you like.

Frankly, I wish I could have seen more of it, but a person can't be in two rooms at once. It's fun to window shop.

The video installation next to Sheldon Film Theatre will continue through Dec. 18. Video artifacts of performance art are seldom as interesting as the original act, but when you add up some Magic Theatre actors, the vibes of Luigi Waites, and some extra video-enhancement effects, this one could become something of a standard of excellence for performance art in the area.

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