

Museum

*of
the*

Fine Arts Research & Holographic Center

1134 W WASHINGTON BOULEVARD / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607
(312) 226-1007

March 23, 1987

Ms Caroline Cracraft
British Consulate
33 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60602

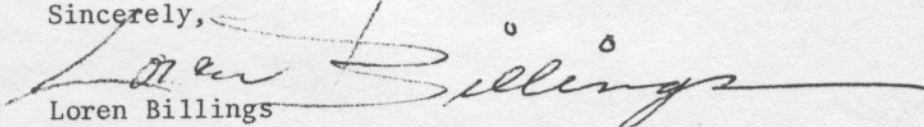
Dear Ms Cracraft:

We have received with interest the enclosed promotion sheet on the exhibition of Margaret Benyon's holographic works in Toronto's Interference Gallery. We are familiar with Margaret Benyon's work and would be interested in mounting an exhibition here at the Fine Arts Research & Holographic Center's Museum of Holography.

I am enclosing some information on this institution and can tell you that we have been in existence for ten years; as a museum, school and research center we are the world's most complete and extensive holographic facility.

We noticed that the Toronto exhibition is sponsored by the British Council and we would like to explore the possibility of similar sponsorship for an exhibition here. If you could put us in touch with the appropriate parties we would be most grateful.

Sincerely,


Loren Billings
Executive Director

LB/tg

enc.



British Consulate General
33 N Dearborn Street Chicago Illinois 60602

Telex 254432 Telephone (312) 346-1810

Miss Loren Billings
Executive Director
Museum of the Fine Arts
Research and Holographic
Center,
1134 W Washington Boulevard
Chicago IL 60607

Your reference

Our reference 293/1

Date 20 April 1987

Dear Miss Billings

I have passed on to Miss Diana Davies
at the British Council office, at our
embassy in Washington, your request for
sponsorship for an exhibition in Chicago
of works by Margaret Benyon.

*Yours truly,
Caroline Cracraft*

Caroline P Cracraft
Vice Consul (Public Affairs)

CPC/PD



INTERFERENCE HOLOGRAM GALLERY

THE CONJUGAL & COSMETIC SERIES

MARGARET BENYON

OPENING MARCH 21, 1987, 8 PM AND
CONTINUING THROUGH MAY 2, 1987

The Interference Hologram Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of the "*Conjugal and Cosmetic Series*"; a one person exhibition by British artist Margaret Benyon. This exhibition is sponsored by the British Council, and features many of the finest pulsed holographic portraits in existence.

Margaret Benyon occupies a legendary position in the development of holographic art. She was the first artist to actually make a hologram, and since the beginning has lead the pursuit for aesthetic excellence in holographic artworks. Some holography has been criticized for being overly concerned with technological special effects at the expense of any meaningful content. Margaret Benyon may have done more than any other holographer to humanize this high-tech medium. Her work voices concern for the human condition, global problems and the origins of art.

She has collaborated for a number of years with British physicist Dr. John Webster and holographer Chis Mead on the creation of highly original pulsed holographic portraits. In her recent work, starting with pieces like *Ti-girl* and the *Cosmetic Series*, she has produced artworks unlike anything else being done in holography today. These holograms combine painting and holography, two dimensional and three dimensional renderings of the same subject in perfect register, resulting in an image alive with the tension created by two fundamentally different approaches to imagemaking competing for supremacy in the viewer's perception.

008-1179A KING STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M6K 3C5
(416) 535-2323 OPERATED BY FRINGE RESEARCH HOLOGRAPHICS INC.

Margaret Benyon is credited with staging the first solo exhibition of holograms in 1969. Since then, her work has been exhibited widely in Europe, the United States, Australia, Japan and China. With the exception of several group shows at Interference Hologram Gallery, this will be the first time a major collection of her work has been exhibited in Canada, and her first major exhibition since her solo show at the Musée de l'Holographie in Paris last year.

During the past year, Interference has exhibited some of the most beautiful (Melissa Crenshaw), provocative (Michael Sowdon) and technically innovative (William J. Molteni) holograms produced today. This new exhibition by Margaret Benyon combines all these elements into what we hope will be a truly memorable viewing experience.

PULSED HOLOGRAPHY

Many of the images in this exhibition were recorded with a high powered pulsed laser. In conventional holography, objects are illuminated by a continuous wave laser and the scene is recorded on a very stable optical bench. If anything moves, even slightly during the often long exposure, the image will not record properly. By using a pulsed laser, stability problems are eliminated, making it possible to record live and moving subjects.

Pulsed holography works on the same principle as the electronic flash used in 2D photography to "freeze" motion. The first laser ever made was a pulsed laser and some of the earliest holograms were recorded this way. However, the expense of the equipment and the expertise needed to handle it safely are considerable, making pulsed holograms a relatively rare phenomena.

The core of the pulsed laser most often used in holography is a synthetic ruby rod with highly polished ends. A flash tube is wrapped around this rod which pumps very intense light into it. Once the energy has been built up to a certain level in the ruby rod a device called a "Q" switch allows this stored up energy to escape out one end in the form of a deep red laser beam. The duration of this pulse of light can vary, but 20 nano (billionths) seconds is a normal exposure time. This beam is divided in two, spread by lenses, directed by mirrors and used to light the subject and the recording film simultaneously as in conventional holography.

The use of pulsed lasers allows holographers to record spontaneous live action scenes, liberating the medium from many of the technical constraints imposed by conventional continuous wave holographic methods.

I N T E R F E R E N C E
H O L O G R A M G A L L E R Y



MARGARET BENYON



CONJUGAL & COSMETIC SERIES



MARCH 21 – MAY 2, 1987

RECEPTION: MARCH 21, 8:00 PM



THIS EXHIBITION IS SPONSORED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

GALLERY HOURS: WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY 12:00 – 6:00 PM

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**INTERFERENCE ACKNOWLEDGES THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CANADA COUNCIL, THE
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL, THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE
AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**