

John Hanhardt

Bill Viola

Werk und Denken

Major monograph on Bill Viola—created in close cooperation with the artist and his wife

Bill Viola (b. 1951 in Queens, New York) began his career as a video artist in the early 1970s, and since then he has been transfixing audiences with his interpretations of human existence. Exploring all of the possibilities of electronic visual and sound technologies, he also examines the psychology and experience of the individual, while also picking up on existential themes such as birth and death. John Hanhardt recounts the artist's entire career. He describes his education, his first film projects, his impressive retrospective in New York in 1997, and his most recent installations in Venice, New York, Tokyo, London, and Berlin. In the process he also works through the central visual, literary, and spiritual influences upon Viola's work. Numerous important works of art, film stills, reproductions from his sketchbooks, and previously unpublished personal notes vivify his work and make this volume unique.

John Hanhardt is curator of film and media art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D. C. He has curated many exhibitions of the works of Nam June Paik, Andy Warhol, and Bill Viola.

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