

Video art – documenta 5/8, Kassel, 1972/1987

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Dear colleagues

For my Ph.D (University of Bern, Switzerland) about "Exhibiting Video Art Problem and Relevance of Presentation", I am looking for photographic documents of the video department at documenta 5 (1972) as well as the video library ("Videothek") at documenta 8 (1987). So far, I tried the documenta archive in Kassel, Gerry Schum's archive, newspaper archives and publications on the documenta. I talked to the assistant curator of the current exhibition 50 years documenta and many people who were directly involved at documenta 5 and 8. Kunstforum International which did a photo documentary on the documenta 8 unfortunately doesn't reply to any query. Also, I was unable to locate Wolfgang Preikschat who organized the video selection at documenta 8. I would be very grateful for any photo of the exhibition display or suggestions for further research possibilities.

Description of the displays: 1) The video department at d5 consisted in a simple room with (probl. 4) video monitors and some chairs. The room was located at the ground floor of the Fridericianum next to the room "Audiovisuelles Vorwort" and to a room with a dia projection.

2) The "Videothek" at d8 - a special construction which was linked by a corridor with the "Audiothek" - consisted in a square room with one central projection and two separate corners with a monitor each.

Many thanks for your help,
Katharina Amman

Reference:

Q: Video art - documenta 5/8, Kassel, 1972/1987. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 1, 2005 (accessed Jan 23, 2026),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/27747>>.