

Women's Labour History Project

2534 Cambridge Street,

Vancouver, B.C.

V5K 1L4

(604) 254-5210

January 15, 1992

Please find enclosed information on Sara Diamond's multi-media installation PATERNITY. This video installation was first exhibited at the Vancouver Art Gallery in January 1991 and will next be shown at Diamond's retrospective in March at the National Art Gallery of Canada.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me, Skai Fowler at the above number or (until the end of May) Sara Diamond at CAL ARTS (805) 255-1055 or (213) 937-6177.

Sincerely

Skai Fowler

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

750 HORNBY STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6Z 2H7 TELEPHONE (604) 682-4668

Sara Diamond's installation *Patternity* was first presented at the Vancouver Art Gallery in January 1991. This installation in many ways successfully combines the variety of approaches used throughout Diamond's work over the previous decade. There are obvious associations with *The Influences of my Mother* but more importantly it is the synchronization of video with still photographic images, topographical maps and text to synthesize notions as wide reaching as the structure of memory, the construction of Gender and the confluence of time that allows this work to transcend the confines of a linear personal narrative. *Patternity* extends Diamond's interest in storytelling, elucidating fragmentary aspects of her father's recollections and memories. The project conceived jointly with her father began with the regular exchange of letters. *Patternity* explores the experience of memory as it is transferred between generations. Stories, recounted in the studio or against the backdrop of New York City, are used to explore the relationships between parent and child. These stories and their visual representations allow layers of personal history to converge in a shared psychological space. The video images used in the installation include studio interviews, urban landscapes, close in shots of hand gestures together with scrolling text excerpted from Diamond's diaries, their exchanged letters and a variety of other sources. Each new story precipitates a reconfiguration of the eight video images on the monitors. The monitors for *Patternity* occupy a comfortable almost domestic space with sofas and curtains. This changes the usual manner in which video is presented in gallery spaces and with the upholstered couches and still images reinforces mapping as symbolic of the many overlaid structures we continually use to organize events and environments to construct meaning from the association of dispersed fragments. *Patternity* challenges the matrices of patriarchy by providing a composite of multiple voices, shifting roles and conflicting images to establish a shared territory where meanings can be reciprocally negotiated.

Sara Diamond's *Patternity* was very successful during its presentation at the Vancouver Art Gallery and I recommend it strongly to you for presentation at your gallery.



Gary Dufour
Senior Curator
Vancouver Art Gallery