

VIDEO

The video-art movement, which emerged in the 1970s, uses tape to produce audio-visual works with their own aesthetic, which is sometimes abstract, sometimes more naturalistic in the manner of *cinema vérité*. Museums and galleries of contemporary art have given some attention to video, but have slighted gay and lesbian examples.

One exception to this neglect was a presentation of thirteen video tapes at New York's New Museum of Contemporary Art under the title "Homo Video: Where We Are in the 1980s" from December 1986 to February 1987. The videos shown were heavily influenced by the television documentary model, presenting images and information relevant to AIDS and to problems of discrimination, with considerable political awareness, though none of them were conventional documentaries with the standard voice-over narrative. In nearly all cases, these reflected attempts to make videos accessible to a mass audience, or capable of being aired over broadcast television, rather than to present idiosyncratic "pure art" videos.

There was also at least one regularly scheduled cable program featuring gay videos, Rick Schur's "The Closet Case Show," which had a long run in a weekly format during the mid-eighties in New York City. This show included less didactic videos, such as the 30-minute parody "How to Seduce a Preppy," and may have

been more representative of a wider cross-section of gay video as then practiced than the New Museum selection, which was intended to point new directions.

See also Television.

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