

**AICA JAPAN CONGRESS 1998**

Symposium "TRANSITION : Changing Society and Art "

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■ Colloquium III *Into the Internet?: New Technologies and the De-materialisation of Art*

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*Art and Technology - Yesterday and Today*

Art in our time is questioning itself. The questioning is its last vitality, a capacity to **open itself** to alternatives between search and research, between reaction and making sense. That is its methodological problem, and in extreme analysis an ideational one too. Art has been caught by scientific and technological reality in which it does not see any orientation. Its own means are dimensionally inadequate to present-day world happenings. Therefore only in relation and confrontation with the current patterns of social values art can find its social function, but should not remain outside the context of scientific-technological organization. On the contrary, art should be putting the question of what is the ultimate purpose of science and technology just like the questioning of its own purpose and sufficiency.

The insufficiency of art for its genuine function results from its technical incapacity to withstand the universality of civilizational phenomena and in the same time to overcome the embedment in still localized social surrounding, mentality and structure.

The question of art today concerns also its ability to surmount the mere phenomenological level of its own nature in relation both to means and to typology of thinking. As regards the means art is far-away from the contemporary technological potential. Regarding the way of thinking it oscillates between infantile nonconformism and conformist involvement in alienating market processes.

These were introductory theses of my presentation at the Colloquium **Art and television**, during the XX AICA General Assembly in Bordeaux, exactly thirty years ago. I would like to reexamine the relevance of these considerations for present-day circumstances.