

Thin Air: An Interview with Intermedia Artist, Iain Baxter, 1970

Identifier

TA.1970.08.22.c2

Description

On August 8, 1970, Charles Amirkhanian visited with intermedia artist Iain Baxter in his North Vancouver, British Columbia home. The residence doubled as the headquarters for an unusual corporation, called the N.E. Thing Co., Ltd. Charles probes the motivations for setting up such an institution and discusses several projects of the company with Mr. Baxter, who preferred to be introduced as “president” of the N.E. Thing Company. Years before the invention of the Macintosh computer or the World Wide Web, Baxter was already envisioning a future where information would be considered the most valuable of commodities and technology would allow artist to collaborate over huge distances. In fact he was perhaps the first person to experiment with sending visual images across electronic networks by utilizing Telex Teleprinters, a precursor to the Internet used by Western Union. Other topics discussed include the proposed making of a 5,000 mile movie documenting the drive across Canada, and the introduction of new terminology for describing the visual and aural arts.

Artists

N.E. Thing Company (features)

Baxter, Iain (features)