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**Into the Light**  
The Projected Image in  
American Art 1964–1977

Chrissie Iles

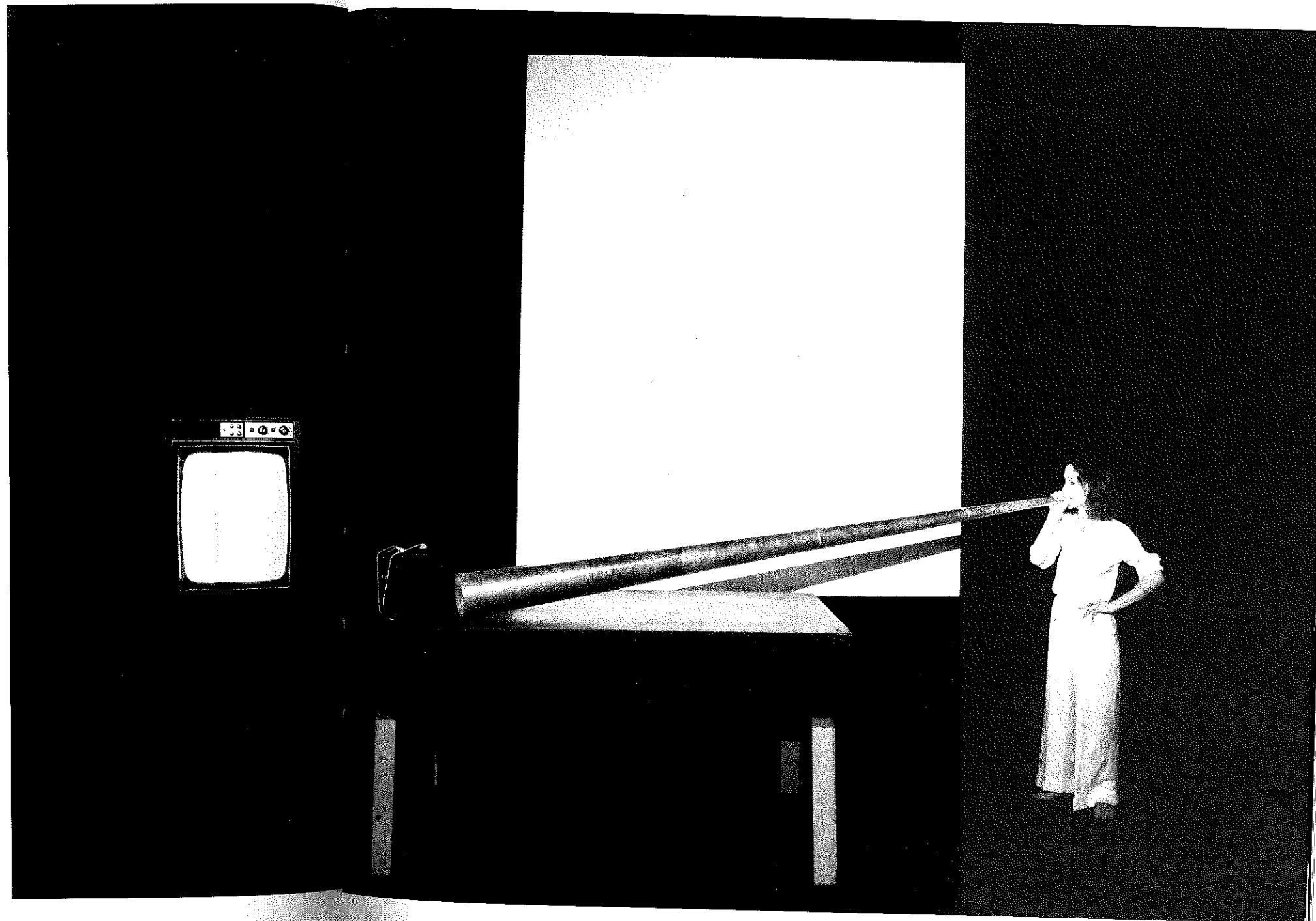
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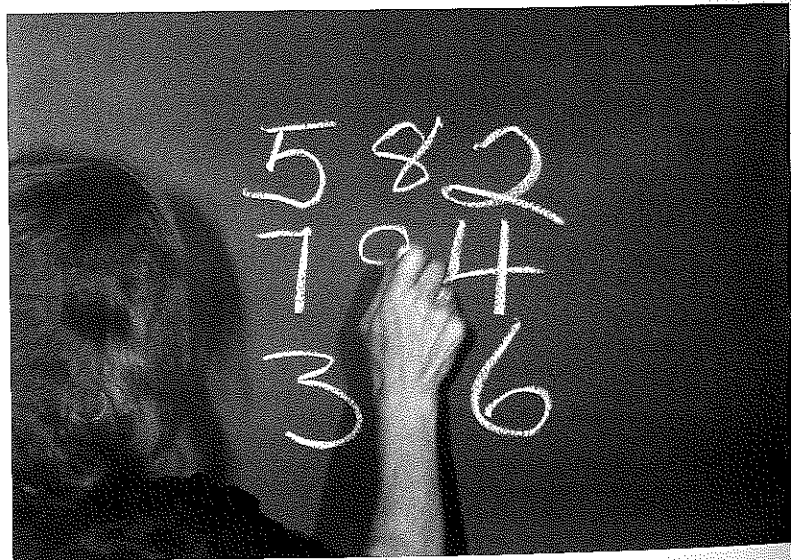
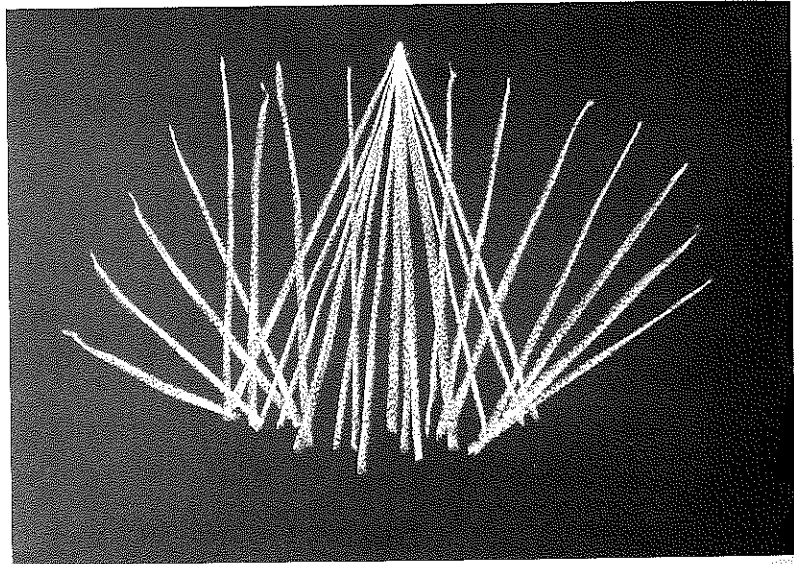
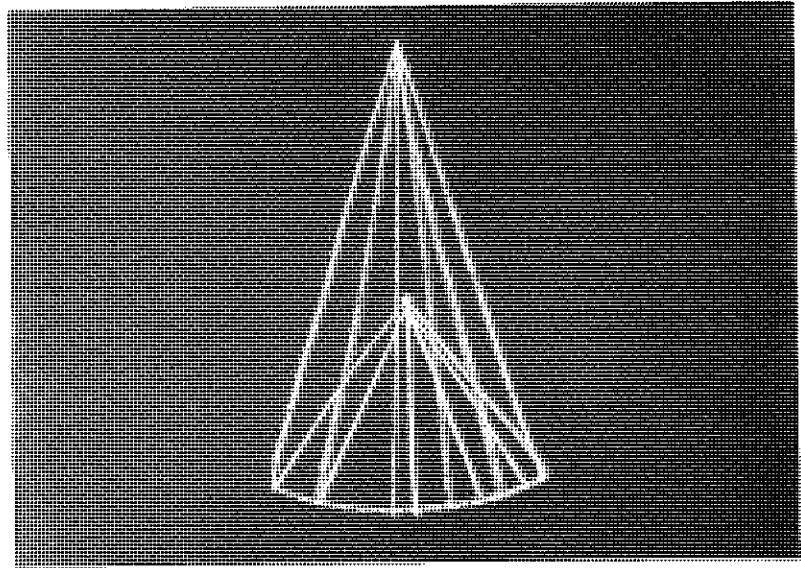
## Joan Jonas *Mirage*

*Mirage*, the last of Joan Jonas' "black-and-white" performances, was performed at Anthology Film Archives at 80 Wooster Street in New York. Frontal in composition, it combined film, video, performance, and drawing. Its structure, which addressed the space of cinema, echoed Anthology's own challenge to the conventions of cinema through its commitment to avant-garde film. Jonas changed the sizes of the screen and connected the action on the screen to that of the space immediately in front of it. With another performer, she created a series of actions, including a sequence also projected on the film screen, in which she drew a series of symbolic drawings on a blackboard, erasing each one before the next was sketched, to create a "magical" sentence. She also used a number of props, including masks and a long metal cone.

The presentation of *Mirage* for this exhibition includes the moving image elements from the original performance. A black-and-white film shows Jonas drawing on the blackboard and appearing in a horizontal roll sequence, shot by Babette Mangolte. A second, smaller projection collages material shot before and at the time of the performance: Jonas dancing in Sardinia, shot by Richard Serra; Jonas and Pat Steir performing in the streets of Manhattan, shot by Andy Mann; and footage shot by Jonas herself. Two videotapes of Jonas performing, *May Windows* and *Good Night, Good Morning*, are shown in front of both projections, on a monitor turned on its side. These elements create a projective environment that evokes the spirit of the original performance. Unlike Jonas' other performances, *Mirage* can be represented as an installation in slightly different forms. This is the first gallery presentation of *Mirage* in this format.

Joan Jonas  
*Mirage*, 1976  
Performance at Anthology  
Film Archives, New York  
When Jonas performed in  
Anthology Film Archives' cinema  
space, she altered the blank  
screen's aspect ratio through-  
out the performance, using  
black curtains. Jonas sang and  
spoke into a long metal cone.





Joan Jonas  
Stills from *Mirage*, 1976



