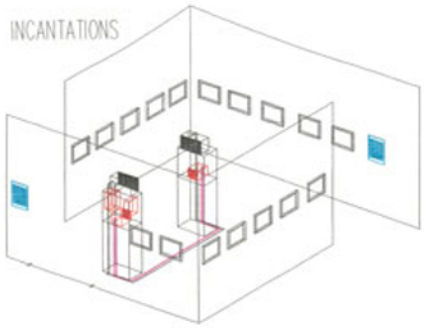

Tim Forcade circa April 1986 Kansas City Artists Coalition, 39th and Bell

KCAC Forum Newsletter Volume 11 Number 5 November 1986

"Incanations" Makes Visible A Larger Range of Reality

by Tony Allard

Tim Forcade's recent show "Incantations" at the Kansas City Artists Coalition had indeed an aura of magic about it. Forcade, who lives in Lawrence, Kansas, created, with modified oscilloscope and electronically processed sound, a multi-level construct that processed light and sound into patterns. At times, these cast a meditative spell over the viewer. '

Forcade's electronic installation consisted of two tall black boxes facing each other with large screen oscilloscopes at eye level. One screen was multi-colored and the other green. Rotating in front of each screen was a large disk that, in conjunction with other devices, altered the normal wave pattern on the scopes. The taped results were culique-shaped marks that would undulate with each new sound input.

As Forcade's taped voice barked out the word "Light" and other sounds, the shape of the sound appeared on screens. The invisible was made visible, like they were seeing the shape of wind in trees. What was visible in this case was the shape or "personality" of Forcade himself.

Forcade described our perception of the world, basically, as a continuous series of rhythmic pulses of light and sound. It became clear: Everything has a distinct rhythm pattern or "Personality," and what Forcade attempted was to make visible larger range of reality.

In addition to the two colorized oscilloscopes, Forcade exhibited a series of color photographs taken from the oscilloscope screens. These stark pictures made available cross sessions of Forcade's "personality." The meaning and value of the marks of light resided not too much in the semantic realm of understanding, but more in the purely sensorial phenomenological realm.

Forcade's show left me with a greater appreciation for the fact that we are absolutely subjective beings, intimately involved in creating our own rhythms. In a sense, then, we are not archetypes but truly unique and changing arrangements of energy ultimately involved in the freedom to create as we go. Therein lies the magic and power of "Incantations."