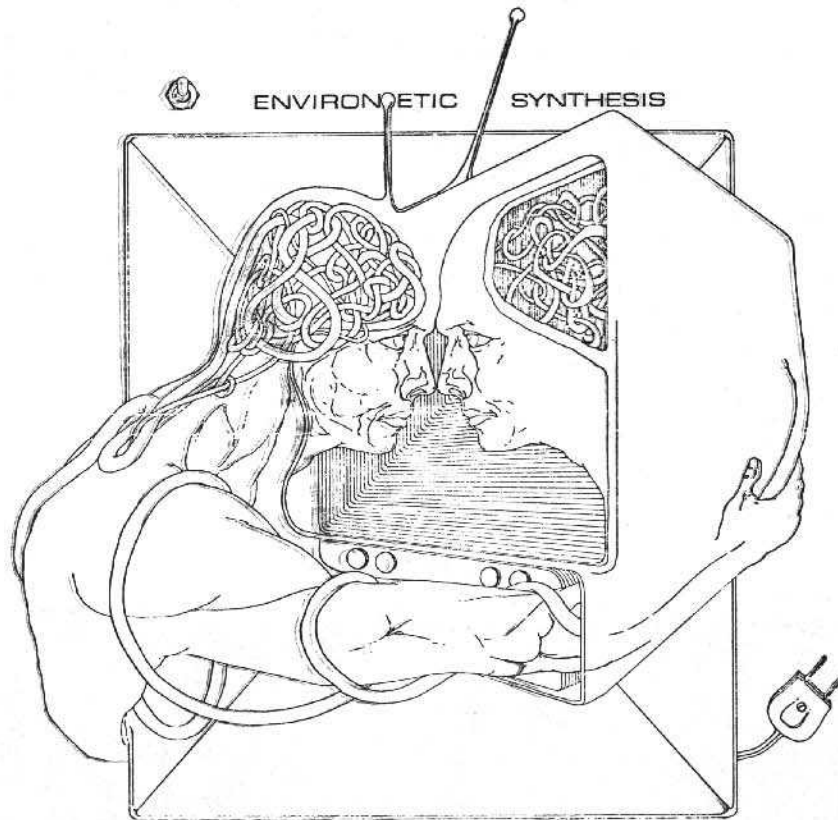


ENVIRONNETIC SYNTHESIS

Drawing: Richard Lowenberg



Environetic Synthesis is both a concept, and a group engaged in projects directed toward actualizing the concept. Our starting point was the premise that one's environment could be designed to respond to one's own physiology, such as the brain waves (EEG) and muscle potentials (EMG), with video, audio and other sensory devices responding to the person. One could thereby interact with, and control all the parameters of this environment to meet the needs of the moment. We soon realized that this simple concept applied to communication, theater, dance, and new forms of video entertainment, and accordingly, it has become a meeting ground for people with diverse interests and backgrounds to work on group projects around this concept.

Another guiding principle is that Man, being part of a natural order, responds intuitively to the orders and patterns which exist in nature on macroscopic, microscopic and familiar levels, and that this response is of artistic value, scientific value, and often a combination of the two.

The third, and most obvious principle is that the rapid development of new technologies provides new and different modes of expression for everyone. Computers, holography, 3-D techniques, man-machine interfacing and other technologies, however, still are on largely exploratory levels from the artist's and layman's point of view, and their further exploration promises interesting developments. A current project of interest to us is videotape documentation of on-going projects by innovators in art, science and technology for cassette and other sources, including reference and teaching libraries.

Another current project is resulting in the integration of dance with technologies used in bio-medical engineering, physiopsychology, computer video graphics and electronic music synthesis. By monitoring the dancer's EMG (electrical activity from the muscles) by telemetry, the dance itself generates a musical-visual environment, rather than the dancer responding to pre-programmed material.

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