



About Steina

Steina, born Steinunn Briem Bjarnadóttir in 1940 in Iceland, lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She studied violin and music theory in Reykjavík and continued her training at the State Music Conservatory in Prague, where she met her future life partner Woody Vasulka. After completing her studies, she joined the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. In 1965, she emigrated with Vasulka to New York, where she initially worked as a freelance musician.

In 1970, Steina turned to the medium of video. In 1971, together with Vasulka, she co-founded The Electronic Kitchen (later The Kitchen), an experimental, interdisciplinary space for electronic media, music, and performance in New York. In 1973, the couple moved to Buffalo, where Steina helped develop the production lab at the Center for Media Study, SUNY at Buffalo, and taught alongside Paul Sharits, Hollis Frampton, and Tony Conrad. In 1980, the Vasulkas settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Steina has lived and worked since.

Steina's work has been shown internationally, including at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh (now the Carnegie Museum of Art); the Jonson Gallery, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Her works are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Julia Stoschek Foundation, Düsseldorf; and Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna.

Awards include grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (1982); the Maya Deren Award (1992); the Siemens Media Arts Prize from ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe (1995); and an honorary doctorate from the San Francisco Art Institute (1998). Steina is represented by BERG Contemporary, Reykjavík.