

Documentracing concerns the documenting of a real time-space event or object (television, printed matter, etc.) through the collecting of fragments (tracings) in a programmed manner. The game-like process of confronting the program's constraints with the selection of images has a true life of its own in that it forces constant change in the chance juxtaposition of symbols. The traced words and images (as a semiotic) of a verbi-visual quality are brought together into a new, meaningful statement through the program's syntactical qualities. They leave an impression of the inherent character of the traced object/event/space. The results are much like the impressions left within us by the fragmented signals from our environment.

The TVdocumentracing in Figure 1 involves the documenting of television programs. Lines were traced directly from the (kinetic) screen, and words were selected programmatically from the audio

portion. In the figure, the number of commercials for a 30-minute program determined the number of lines selected, with an additional "text" selected from the program following the selection of each line.

In Figure 2, the Documentracing: Printed Matter involves the documenting of a particular publication. Again, all objects were spontaneously approached within the constraints of an applied program. There were no predetermined themes and all pages were "read" from front to back (covers always included).

Single "units" (one symbol or a group of related symbols) were usually selected from each page and traced or cut out, always maintaining their original spacial position. In Figure 2 double-page spreads from the last issue of Life magazine are used, with a single symbol "unit" per page.



