

We are moving away from the concept of teacher as an authority figure, and we approach a more organic system where we all have information to share with each other and our community once again becomes the place of learning, rather than the pseudo schools and establishment media which have heretofore hyped our educational environment. Thus we strive for tapes which promote human interaction and growth.

We would also encourage the showing of tapes to as many people, as often as possible, still believing that video is most effectively relevant to small groups. Getting your tapes shown on cable tv is important also since of course you can thereby expose many more people to humanistic ways of viewing the world, but still, the medium lacks feedback and two-way exchange. On the other hand, setting up a community viewing space seems to satisfy many more of our needs for personal contact and in the long run does more to turn people on than any kind of mass media so far.

We had a really positive experience last year when we set up a viewing space in our New York City loft and showed tapes to the public every Saturday night. Probably one of the reasons it was so successful, besides the fact that the tapes took people places they had never been and introduced them to people they had never known, was the fact that we tried to create an environ-

ment that was as comfortable and natural as your own living room. We used several monitors, all showing the same tape (which isn't to say that several relevant tapes couldn't have been shown simultaneously with conscious mixing of audio tracks). Seating was in small comfortable groups, each around one or two tv's, and relaxed conversation among the viewers occurred as a result. The space resembled a landscape. Seating platforms on different levels, monitors piled up on top of each other, cushions on the floor, one big video picnic under a giant parachute sky. The tapes were a collection of the best sequences from our own archive and from those of other video groups (Video Freex, Peoples Video Theater, Media Access, TVX in London) so the resulting experience was a life trip of considerable diversity.

Diversity. It's almost a dirty word in a nation founded on principles of equality (a concept which has somehow been misconstrued to mean homogeneity.) We are confronted with a centralized information source which tries to push its constituency into a common mold and we struggle to be free of it. We are all unique individuals and in a world of joy there is room for diversity. A healthy planet encourages it. We do in fact strive for it. And a de-centralized communications system which allows free expression to all, embraces it.

*Dudley*

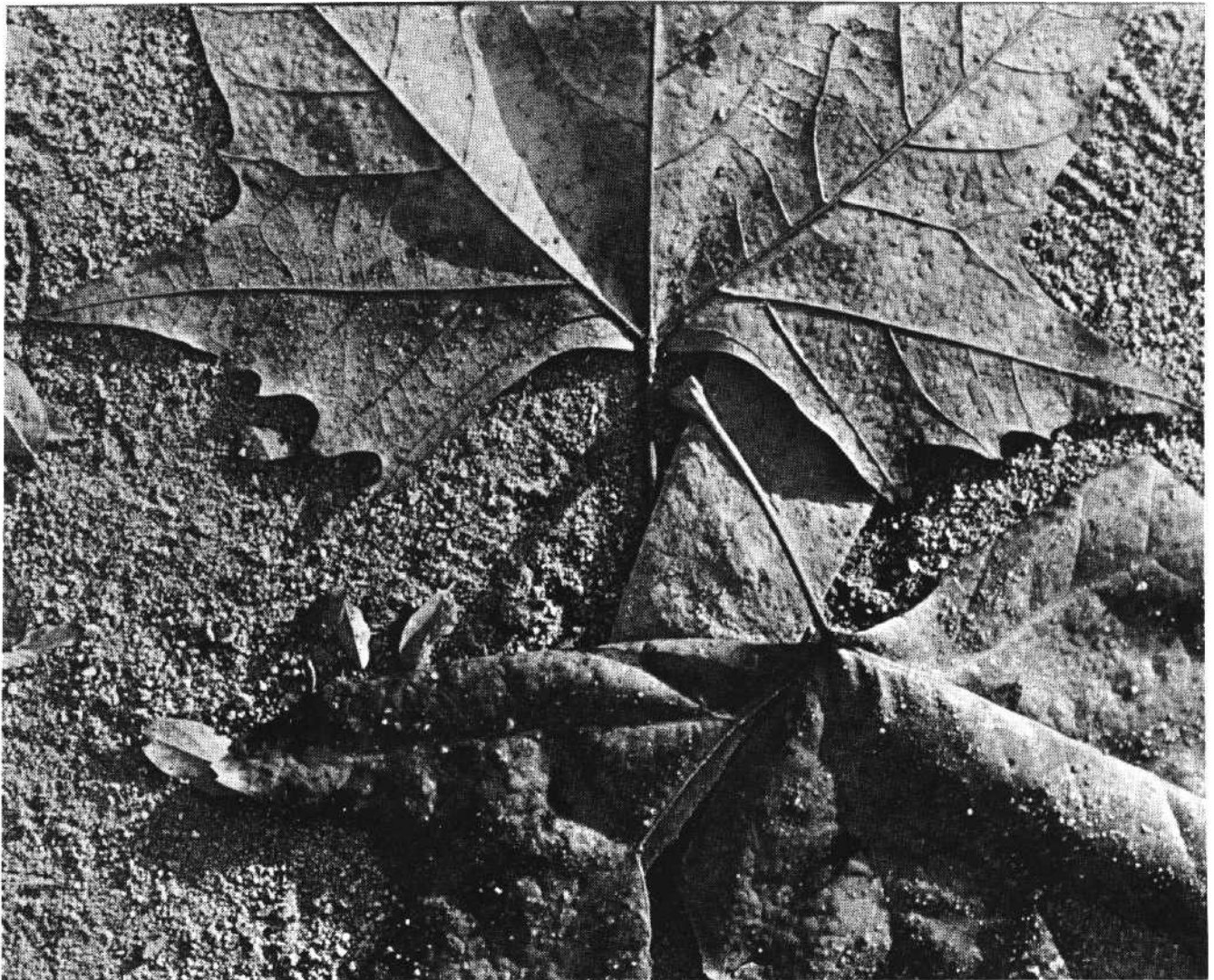


photo: Russell Dian