

# QUARKS

angular momentum

*However, this perpetual observer has no stories to tell, no store of wisdom, no knowledge of the grand patterns. Locked within a great immutable Now, it has no sense of past or future. Without a memory to give it life, events flicker across its image surface with only a split second to linger as afterimages, disappearing forever without a trace.*

BILL VIOLA

**Quarks** captures present presence, illuminating the movement of a momentary scene in a whitish glow, and soon discards the instant in favor of another. A fixed observer, **Quarks** picks out the contours of a particular spatial organization of individuals – the audience – and objects; it separates

the animate from the inanimate, and reveals this social arrangement in a bifurcated projection which pulls moving pieces forward in a kind of three-dimensional effect. **Quarks** makes observers the subject matter of the piece, and asks that they choose between motion and stillness, thereby pulling themselves in or out of the video process.



This real-time video piece occupies up to three walls of a given space, with a camera and projector dedicated to each surface. The ambient light is low, and the system, which uses movement and change in the audience to determine its image progression, requires cameras that pick up light into the infra-red spectrum. The background image – the room itself – is significantly

dimmed in the projected images, leaving visitors seemingly free in space, their arrangement studied from the three camera angles.

**Quarks** is a kind of inverse mirror to its companion piece, **Three Recollections**. Where the latter highlights the lit, observant presence of individuals, the former captures a group of anonymous forms in sequence. The result is an animation of social interaction, in which motion and gesture define expression. And whereas **Three Recollections** proceeds in a non-linear manner, rearranging the timeline of its installation freely, **Quarks** follows a direct path that is triggered at regular intervals by the presence of visitors.