

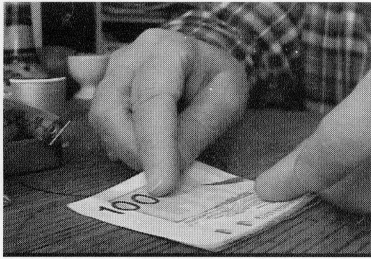
DON'T

**BANK
ON IT**

nine videos exploring the future of money, banking and capitalism

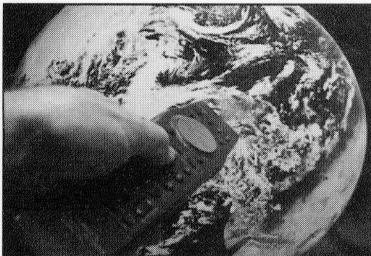
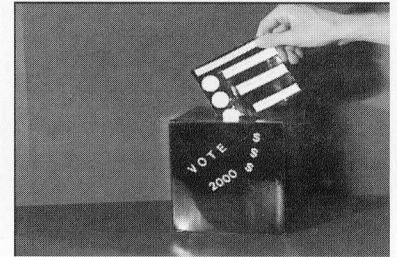
a Canada wide video production project co-ordinated by Ed Video Media Arts Centre

> ***In Trust*, Noreen Battaglia - Halifax** > There is no personal safety as an immigrant woman earns money and repeatedly has it stolen. Colourful cloth patches are carefully stitched together by hand and by machine to create little pockets. \$100 bills are stored in these pockets that are skillfully sewn together. The search for a safe hiding spot for money continues. > ***The Capitalist Ethic - Profit Over People*, Matt Crawley, Tim DiMuzio - Guelph** > An essay-style narration, contrasting theories of Adam Smith with Karl Marx, is cut to multiple images of industrial development. The imperialist, global agenda of "all for ourselves and nothing for anybody else" runs as the underlying theme. We are posed with the choice to follow, or actively work to change the system. > ***Lexi-Con*, Don Alexander - St. Catharines** > Switching channels, but they all seem to be connected to the same television network. Newscasters report in serious monotone on the stock market, and their overtly economic lingo makes it seem like a language all on *its* own. The mock imagery makes reference to the silliness of business culture, and the eerie-ness of it manufacturing the economy. The viewer is bombarded by the business control of tv stations.



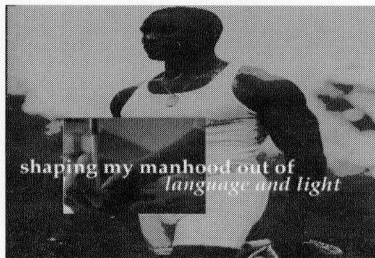
NOREEN BATTAGLIA lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia and has been involved with electronic media for several years. *In Trust*, is her second video piece and she plans to continue with the theme of hidden money, exploring the documentary genre.

MATT CRAWLEY and TIM DIMUZIO collaborate for their first video, *The Capitalist Ethic - Profit Over People*. MATT, a graduate of the University of Guelph, and TIM, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, have recently relocated to Vancouver to pursue careers in writing.



DON ALEXANDER produces videos to empower and advance the goals of not-for-profit organizations. A video-pioneer, he once worked at a TV station (1955-63) and in 1980 began to use recently developed portable TV and video equipment as an adjunct to his community development.

> **BLACKBOX, Leah Snyder - Kitchener** > The sound of a heart beat. Searching for Black manhood through still images of the Black male, constructed for corporate profits and popularized in sportswear and cars. These racial stereotypes are deconstructed by urban beats, and a Black man in the position of creating his own representation, and moving images of Black men in everyday settings. > **The Newfoundland LETS Barter Network: Bringing Back the COD, Lori Heath - St. John's** > Black & white archival footage is used to show how the barter system was implemented for the fisherfolk in Newfoundland. The introduction to the Local Employment Training System offers a more equitable system, because the merchant class controlled the former barter system. Current footage documents how the local economy is reinvented based on benefits for small businesses and self-employment. > **Cash and Carry, Andrew James Paterson - Toronto** > An impersonal and wry dialogue between a cynic and an optimist, using theoretical jargon, jumping from one topic to the next in an almost seamless phone conversation with oneself. They argue out economic theories and its truth or relevance in society. We are drawn into an exchange of money between two men in a washroom, which prompts a discussion of where this transaction fits into the economic system.



Kitchener artist LEAH SNYDER is a photographer who is making her video debut with *BLACKBOX*. Her work is like a collage that juxtaposes beautiful and positive images with the negatives of society. This is her way of stating that there is hope for change.

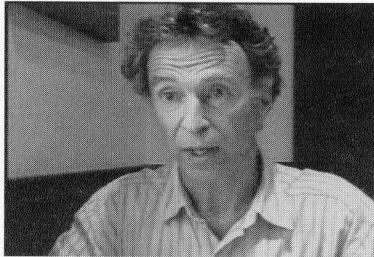
LORI HEATH is a social and environmental activist currently based in St. John's. Her growing awareness of community development has focused her work around issues associated with the global economy. LORI is the co-ordinator of the LETS Barter Network in her community.



ANDREW JAMES PATERSON is an interdisciplinary time-based artist living and working in Toronto. His work has been concerned with exchange systems and shifting boundaries between public and private spaces.

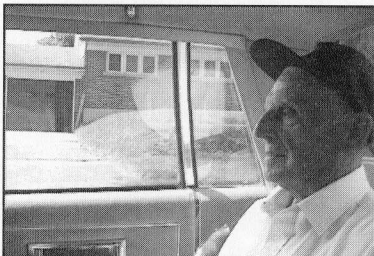
> ***The Discounted Economy*, Farhad Dastur - Halifax** > Through interviews and narration, we are educated on what is recorded by the methods we use to measure the economy. The dominant economic analysis of what benefits society is void of any genuine social, or environmental benefits. The need to live in this world in terms of quality of life and humanity is touched upon. > ***Me. Inc.*, David Jonasson, Jan Seibel - Regina** > Computer generated animated figures of a white, corporate female and white, corporate male move through a backdrop of buildings and business districts. As the bodies and facial expressions of these figures contort, the ad-like narration wittily exposes the laissez-faire corporate world, and the ways in which one could profit from exploitation. > ***Banking Day*, Dawn Matheson - Guelph** > A drive to the bank from a rural farm to town unfolds several stories from the elderly that are seen en route. We learn more about a time when banks were not so present in people's lives. Eventually we see how the machine is taking over and how financial transactions can monitor our lives.

Melanya Liwanag Aquila



FARHAD DASTUR is an emerging artist with a strong background in film, videography, writing, and directing. He has produced a number of works in Halifax and in recent years has gained experience as an actor.

JAN SEIBEL and DAVID JONASSON currently live in Regina and work at Neutral Ground Artist Run Centre / SOIL. Both are well known artists, with JAN having a background in fine arts and DAVID having a background in digital audio, video, and graphics.



Guelph based artist DAWN MATHESON is a media artist who creates intimate portrayals of people and their surroundings. Working for CBC as a freelance producer, she has extensive experience working with radio and television documentaries.

DON'T BANK ON IT

UNDER THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, VIDEO MAKING CAN NOT SEPARATE ITSELF FROM SOME FORM OF MONEY EXCHANGE. CULTURAL WORKERS HAVE ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE FROM MAINSTREAM VIDEO SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION FOR INDEPENDENT VIDEO MAKERS. IN CANADA, THERE ARE NUMEROUS ARTIST-RUN MEDIA AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRES THAT ARE MORE COMMUNITY-BASED AND AFFORDABLE. *DON'T BANK ON IT* BRINGS TOGETHER NEW WORK CREATED BY ELEVEN ARTISTS FROM ACROSS CANADA.. THESE VIDEO ARTISTS HAVE USED VIDEO, A PRODUCT OF MONETARY VALUE TO ANALYZE, MOCK, AND EDUCATE ON THE MONETARY SYSTEMS. THEY PRESENT HISTORICAL AND CURRENT PROGRESSIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE DOMINATING MONETARY SYSTEMS, AND A CALL FOR CHANGE.

Melanya Liwanag Aguilfa

THE INNOVATIVE WORK IN THIS COMPILATION OF VIDEOS ENGAGES THE VIEWER AND IS ABLE TO DRAW ONE INTO DIALOGUE TO EXAMINE THE PRESENT MONETARY SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE ISSUES EXPLORED TOUCH ON A NUMBER OF HOT TOPICS, INCLUDING GLOBALIZATION, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CASH, FINANCIAL ANONYMITY, MISTRUST OF INSTITUTIONS, AND THE SPECTRE OF HUMAN BEINGS AS COMMODITIES. BY TURNS HUMOROUS, DISTURBING AND PROVOCATIVE, THE WORKS RANGE WIDELY IN STYLE AND SUBJECT MATTER. WHILE SOME OF THE VIDEOS ENGAGE THE VIEWER ON AN EMOTIONAL OR PERSONAL LEVEL, OTHERS CALL TO ONE'S INTELLECT, DEMANDING THAT WE HEAR THE MESSAGE CLEARLY. EACH ARTIST'S UNIQUE APPROACH TO THE SUBJECT MATTER, WHETHER IT BE DOCUMENTARY, EXPERIMENTAL OR NARRATIVE, RESULTS IN AN EXCEPTIONAL ENSEMBLE OF DIVERSE VIDEO WORKS.

Kim Jack-McConnell, Helen Spitzer

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