

John Baldessari

Born National City, California, 1931
Resident Santa Monica

John Baldessari sent us several proposals and subsequently toured Heath and Company. Three of these proposals, listed as follows, were potentially feasible, but none were realized:

1. Work with outdoor advertising companies to provide space, sign painters, and photo enlargement service. I would like to explore half-tone photo silk-screen color process to do large scale full color blowups of photos. The idea of mass art by conventional means I find intriguing. These billboards would continue the work I have already done with bus stop signs, seat posters, etc.
2. I would like to work in a botany lab. I have various ideas I would like to work out, such as coloring plants, changing growth patterns, etc. Basically, the idea is to explore living materials as opposed to inert material.
3. You are already familiar with my ideas of transmitted art, invisible art by radio waves one could receive if one wished. I have several variations currently.
 - a. On commercial radio or TV, an art section of the news amidst international, local news and sports. There would be, perhaps, an ART ROUNDUP.
 - b. A radio transmitter would be exhibited pre-programmed with tapes to broadcast art messages at various days and intervals. The title of the piece would be the call letters of the broadcasting band used; or a licensed station could be used, either FM or AM and anyone with such equipment could pick up the messages; or cheap receivers could be sold and a citizens band could be used. The piece would include a program guide for the month. The program notes would be part of the piece.

Iain Baxter

Born Middlesborough, England, 1936
Resident Vancouver

Iain Baxter, President of N.E. Thing Company (the name Baxter has assigned to identify his output of art in numerous areas—research, graphics, photographs, events, objects, happenings, etc.), came to Los Angeles in May, 1968 and toured The Garrett Corporation. He was primarily interested in remote-controlled inflatable sculptures. Before leaving town he presented us with the following sketchy outline for a project possibility:

Inflatable structures: take form of clouds, lightning bolts (cirrus, cumulus); large—300' to 100'; multi-colored; helium filled; remote controlled apparatus; Sky-Dog—flying car, shaped like hot dog bun.

Remote the thing, so it or they can hover over Museum—over country—large tube on desert of tough material, inflated with ½ helium, ½ air—remoted, so can roll over countryside.

Possibilities:

1. Floating cloud, remote controlled to be over Museum, Watts, parks, deserts, Pasadena—San Marino, etc.
2. Rolling, tumbling inflated shapes for desert—remote controlled movement.
3. Buried shape, inflated to raise the ground above it—may be under glass, sand, etc.,—time sequence?

Large Sculptures:

4. Discovery pieces—to be placed by helicopter in the woods—on the desert—on a remote lake—in the ocean or other remote places. Problems involved are durability of material for various weathers—also portability—should have remote controlled inflation.
5. Sky Dog—flying car—lift weight of a human, yet collapsible and portable.
6. Large shape to move down a large river—various navigation problems involved—could use ocean currents—could also be submarine with remote controlled movement.

Materials to investigate would include vinyl, coated materials such as canvas, rubber, cement (inflatable cement?)

Seeing [further] resources of the company would stimulate all other possibilities.

The Garrett staff with whom we had discussed these flying inflatables maintained that the remote control devices required to operate them could not be built by their company.