

Mike MacDonald seems to be more interested in speaking to his people, in shoring up the ruins of their destruction and helping to create new patterns of identification in his healing *Electronic Totem*. Five stacked video monitors show contemporary life of the Gitk'san Wetsuet'ain Nation at K'san on the British Columbia coast. Mountains, an old woman drumming and sing-speaking stories, totem poles, long houses, the living animals depicted on the totems, and lots of clean, clear water; a simple memorable piece which omits the painful side – the material poverty, scarred forests, and inferior land on which most natives live. The political goal is to build a sense of self-worth which people do not get if the places in which they live are continually reflected to them in the negativity of mass media. As art lovers the world over know, a great amount of self-worth is given by the possession and mere viewing of aesthetically pleasing objects.