

?? A e

George Barber : Curtain Trip

George Barber began making video art in 1984 and achieved fast notoriety as the person behind Scratch Video - a form that specialized in re-cutting other people's footage, usually off TV. He released two tapes entitled "The Greatest Hits of Scratch Video" Volumes 1 and 2 featuring other artists beside himself. The tapes were well promoted and reached a quite different audience to that which normally enjoys video art. Scratch also appealed to advertising companies and much of the "feel" was subsequently lifted and turned around to promote youth products. Re-stolen back into the mainstream.

Conversely, at the same time George Barber had always been interested in writing, and produced two narrative shorts for the British Film Institute. "The Venetian Ghost" and "Taxi Driver 2". Both gained film festival awards and have been screened on Channel 4. He is currently putting together a new anthology of video work and preparing a second series of talks for BBC Radio 4.

"Curtain Trip" resulted from my hanging three pieces of colored silk from a ceiling, lying on the ground and looking up at them as they moved in the breeze. Soon I realised that although I found this pretty fabulous, nobody else would. Thus, I hit on the idea of doubling it all up and creating a vortex or mandala type image. The

footage of the fabric itself was shot on
film; the rest is history.