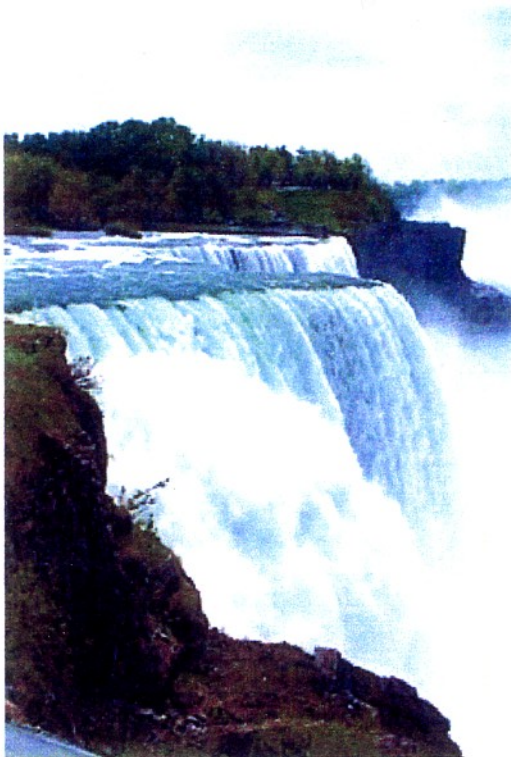# ‖ The Washington Post ‖

Arts

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CHELSEA'S FALL SEASON

Wolfgang Staehle is the German-born Internet artist, long based in New York, whose video installation famously captured live footage of the World Trade Center as it burned and then collapsed.

During his latest show at Postmasters gallery, Staehle will be presenting more peaceable live action—or so we have to hope.

One wall-filling, high-resolution video projection shows a series of still photos of a rustic vista in the Hudson River valley, snapped every 10 seconds by a live Web camera set on automatic. Rather than presenting the world in video, as it passes us by, Staehle's piece gives it to us as a sequence of tableaux. He becomes a kind of high-speed Frederic Church. It's amazing what pleasure there can be in watching nature change—or rather, in watching one man-made picture give way to an oh-so-slightly different view. A visit just at closing time showed crisply rendered Old Master vegetation fading to impressionistic black—a Sanford Gifford sunset becoming a Whistler nocturne. Flattened out and turned into a glowing rectangle on the wall of a Chelsea gallery, even the most transparent, high-tech view of nature smacks more of old-time art than of the great outdoors.

In another video projection, Staehle has taken a single classic landscape view and animated it. By shooting an hour's worth of Niagara Falls—shades of Church again—and then editing it into an infinite, seamless loop with roaring sound, Staehle gives us both a chance to contemplate a single scene at leisure and to absorb that scene's dynamic flow.

It's the next best thing to being there—no raincoat required. After all, who needs reality when mediation does the trick so well?

At Postmasters gallery through Oct. 16. Call 212-727-3323 or visit www.postmastersart.com.

For a video clip from the installation, visit www.washingtonpost.com/museums.