



John Keasler

Artist takes Dizzy Gillespie to the edge of the future

Art? Science? Magic? Sci-fi? Photography? What? What is a hologram?

Well, it's an absolutely life-like three dimensional moving mirage that both is and isn't there and it's done with laser light.

You're looking at photos of a life-size hologram when you're looking at Dizzy Gillespie here. You're looking at one picture, mind you. One picture... except it comes totally to life when it moves around, or you move around it; then, it is motion, and reality, and unreality and thereness.

As far as I'm concerned, it's pure magic... the magic of human imagination and ingenuity, and out at 8827 S.W. 129th Terrace in a strange little shop is an artist out on the far edge of the future.

His name is Mark Diamond. He's artist, scientist, physicist, mystic. That's what a holographer has to be. Mark's firm, Holografix Inc., is the only one of its kind south of New York, which may be why Mark Diamond is an artist known better nationally than he is locally.

There is just no frame of reference for discussion of his work.

There was no frame of reference



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for rolling around, before invention of the wheel. There was no frame of reference for stored sound before the phonograph. And, except among those few others familiar with holography, there is little frame of reference for an imaging process which reproduces the contours of life, meticulously and exactly.

You may have seen a hologram somewhere in a store window display, or bank lobby. Maybe a beautiful girl, smiling, moving, alive. Put out your hand and there's nothing there.

Diamond creates holograms. Thinkers and philosophers and scientists come to his small littered shop. People like Timothy O'Leary, the late Buckminster Fuller, others. (Bucky Fuller is still alive in Diamond's hologram of him. He's there.) I love Diamond's shop. The future is being shaped there. Mark is always shoving at frontiers.

This time it was the life-size hologram of the great Dizzy. It looks like a big piece of film just hanging there, but as you walk past it, Dizzy is alive. His unique angled horn comes up, his cheeks bulge, his eyes sparkle, he watches you, he is there.

Why Dizzy? Well, Dizzy was playing Miami. Mark, who plays horn and admires Dizzy, simply approached him out at the Zoo, of all places. And asked, "Want to sit for a hologram?"

"Say what?" said Dizzy. But Gil-



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Dizzy Gillespie hologram, top, and Miami's holographer, Mark Diamond, above

lespie, after an explanation, was fascinated. Mark went with Dizzy to California. Much technical work. Dizzy enjoyed it hugely. He hasn't himself seen this finished project yet but it will be shown — world premiere — this Wednesday and Thursday in Diamond's show called "Something in the Air."

There will be dozens of other holograms, plus drawings by the abstract/surrealist Stuart Ellis. (Seating is limited. Call Mark at 255-3166 for reservations; otherwise you might not get in.)

Mark Diamond was a free-lance photographer for magazines such as Rolling Stone before holography hooked him. He started creating his shop 10 years ago. Mark Diamond is a man working so far out in the future there is almost nobody for him to talk with.

Uses for holography expand as fast as the mind of man. Industrial, medical. Military. Great art doesn't have to leave the vault — a hologram can be sent on tour and it is the art. Or, a family portrait (don't confuse holography with simple 3-D) is a moving, laughing family. A hologram of flesh or skin, as in a biopsy, for instance, shows cellular structure under a microscope as if the person were there.

It all makes teleportation — beam me up, Diamond — seem far less far out. Maybe, says Mark, we may someday holograph thought. Communication. Who knows? His shop is the only place I know where an artist can work with a baffling medium named infinity, and can get Dizzy Gillespie to help him.

And the future is made of the kind of thinking Mark Diamond does. (It always has been.)