

**Andy Graydon**  
**Farwanderer video installation**  
detailed description and technical information

---

Introduction

Farwanderer is a single-channel video and sound installation designed for a small indoor gallery environment. The work is capable of being installed in two different, but complimentary, ways (both will be detailed below, to be chosen based on the exhibition space).

Farwanderer is concerned with the spaces between: with planes that don't quite intersect, with places that are new yet familiar, with leaps of logic, and things seen out of the corner of the eye. The installation seeks to conjure a space of suspension where a multiplicity of images, states, identifications, stories are still in flux; where experience and meaning have not yet resolved into a single whole, but are still negotiating their terms of being. It is about the many states and senses of travel.

General Narrative

Two rear-projection screens are suspended at right angles in the space, forming a free-floating corner (or "V") filled with images. A soundtrack of manipulated field recordings is punctuated at intervals by the whispered story of a drifting traveler, as told in a series of letters to Home. A narrative of diffraction, displacement, and shifting identity develops as the traveler tries to recognize Home in every new destination. The narrator ends each letter with a request: please send another picture postcard showing a familiar view of New York. Slowly the traveler's use of these iconic postcards reveals a private ritual binding Home and Away, Self and Other, together.

Each of the tandem images presents a different facet of the narrator's story. Sometimes we see shifting versions of the same piece of film, while in other moments the images clash, complement, or comment on each other. Meaning is always negotiated between the images, just as the traveler's sense of self is caught forever between Home and Away, and the changing definitions of each.

Technical Information

The work can be installed in two ways. The first, and favored, involves projecting a distorted split-screen image from a single projector onto two frosted plexiglass screens hanging at an angle to each other, such that each screen appears to contain one half of the split screen (See the enclosed video documenting an installation of the work in this fashion.) The second involves a single projector casting a similarly distorted split-screen into a corner of the gallery space, such that each screen of the split appears on one of the two intersecting walls.

Please refer to the attached drawings for clarification of the description below.  
Conversion to metric units is available on request.

## Version A: Hanging Screens

- **Equipment required:**

- (2) plexiglass screens, 4' x 3' x 1/8" (see below)
- (1) NTSC LCD or DLP video projector, 800 lumens or above, with cables
- (1) NTSC DVD player, with cables
- (1) audio amplifier
- (2) small loudspeakers, with cables
- clear filament line, foam tape or silicone, various supplies and incidentals

- **Equipment available from the artist:**

- (2) plexiglass screens
- (1) NTSC DLP video projector, 650 lumens
- (1) NTSC DVD player

- **Sound:** A mix of voice-over, location recordings, and ambience are played over two small loudspeakers hung from the ceiling. One speaker should be hung approx. 17 inches directly over each screen, facing straight down to the floor. The goal is to envelop the area directly around the screens with the ambient sound, while keeping overall level low enough to draw viewers closer to hear the intimate voice-over sections.

- **Duration:** 17 minutes, looped continuously on DVD.

- **Screen materials:** single side frosted plexiglass, 1/8" thickness. These serve as rigid rear-projection screens, allowing the work to be viewed from 360 degrees with varying levels of brightness.

  - Cyro Acrylite FF (Crystal Ice) or equivalent.

  - 1/8" holes drilled in top corners of each for filament to hang from ceiling.

- **Screen dimensions:** 4 feet wide x 3 feet high x 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch thick.

- **Screen arrangement:** hanging vertically, screens contact each other at a 90° angle, forming a corner, or a "V".

  - Foam tape or silicone is used to join the screens invisibly at this seam.

  - Screens hang 5 feet from the floor.

- **Space requirements:** An orbit of free movement for the viewer of at least 8 feet around the screens on all sides is preferable. The installation need not be in a room of its own, however the attached drawings reflect the preferred relationships between the screens and points of entry and exit; I prefer to have viewers enter from the side or from behind the screens, revealing the prime viewing angle only as viewers travel around the work.

  - Screens are hung approx. 100 horizontal inches (8.5 feet) away from the plane of the projector (wall or corner of the gallery space).

  - The screens are hung 5 vertical feet from the floor.

  - The projector is mounted at approx. 130" from the floor (measured from the bottom of the lens), angled down with projection centered on the convex intersection of the two screens. Setting the projector this high allows full movement of the viewer around the screens without crossing projection, giving impression that the image is appearing from nowhere.

  - Ambient light levels must be kept to a minimum. Darkness is preferred.

  - Ambient sound levels should be kept low. This is a quiet and meditative piece that might not fare well in competition with many other loud sound sources.

- **Image preparation:** In this installation one projector is used to create what appear to be two separate images on screens that do not hang in the same flat viewing plane. This effect is produced by compositing the two images side by side, then warping their dimensions such that they only appear flat when projected onto the odd orientations of

the screens. (Please see the included video for an example of what the warped images look like when prepared in this way.)

To achieve this properly, the exact relationship of projector to screens must be established in advance in the space, then the digital video can be prepared and rendered to map out exactly to the actual screen dimensions. This is best done using a laptop connected to the projector in the actual exhibition space, then burned to DVD. Alternately, the configuration measurements could be communicated to me, replicated in the studio, and burned to DVD.

Because the screens lie 135 degrees to the projection instead of 90 degrees, absolute sharp focus cannot be maintained over the entire screen surface. Focus is set for the mid-plane of both screens, and the resulting minor softness, both near and far, does not detract from the work.

- **Construction Requirements:** none. Screens will need to be hung from the ceiling by clear filament, as will two small loudspeakers. The screens should not be anchored to the floor, to allow movement under and around them as desired by the viewer. A projector stand would need to be made on the wall or corner, set about 130'' high. DVD player and audio amp could be placed with the projector, or housed separately.
- **Connectivity Requirements:** none.
- **Daily maintenance routines:** ordinary care of video projector (warm up and warm down times, etc.); Projection should be checked daily for shifts in screen height and unwanted spill over screen area; Occasional dusting of plexiglass screens.
- **Will the artist need to be present:** I prefer to be present, but it is not absolutely necessary, provided real exhibition space specs can be communicated to me in time to make a DVD to fit the arrangement. If I am to be supplying equipment I would need to come in person to supervise the installation.

### Version B: Gallery Corner

This less elaborate articulation of the work uses a concave OR convex corner of the exhibition space to divide the two images of the installation. All technical and equipment specs are the same as in Version A, with the following exceptions:

- No plexiglass screens are used. White gallery walls and low ambient light levels are required.
- The image would again be custom-warped based on the actual relationship of projector to surface in order to appear flat and square against the off-axis viewing planes. The preparation would be very different in this version between concave and convex corners (again, see tape for example of a convex preparation).
- Loudspeakers would be hung from the ceiling, facing the floor, at a height of approx. 9 feet, and approx. five feet from the walls.
- This form of the installation is suitable for transitional and non-traditional areas of exhibition, including stairwells, large square pillars, intersections of glass with solid wall, etc. Image dimensions are variable at the discretion of the artist.
- I prefer to exhibit Version A of the installation, unless particular space limitations or exceptional space opportunities exist in the festival's galleries for the work in this alternate form. In any case it would be best to discuss this with the exhibition space in mind.