



HOW THE PAST PERISHES — HOW THE FUTURE BECOMES

3rd August, 1977

VOWEL GRID: A RESTORATION OF LANGUAGE by Patrick Ireland.

Vowel Grid (1970) sets two performers (man and woman) in motion on a grid. The grid, made up of five colours is divided into five lengths.

Each length is associated with a vowel, as adapted from the early Celtic Alphabet - Ogham. The performers alternately step off A (one step); O (two steps); U (three steps); E (four steps); I (five steps); speaking the vowel after each movement.

The grid is set on North/South, East/West axes.

The performers, dressed in white, each step off one axis. Together they recreate the vowels without which language cannot move. The vowels are translated into movement, colour, direction, position.

This performance is dedicated to the Welsh Language, which has preserved a unique form of consciousness despite all attempts to destroy it.

The performance will take place at 2.15 on the platform outside the HTV stand which has kindly been made available by Harlech Television.

A	O	U	E	I
1	11	111	1111	11111
H	D	T	C	Q
<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>1111</u>	<u>11111</u>
B	L	V	S	N
<u>T</u>	<u>TT</u>	<u>TTT</u>	<u>TTTT</u>	<u>TTTTT</u>
M	G	NG	Z	R
<u>+</u>	<u>##</u>	<u>##-</u>	<u>###</u>	<u>####</u>

OGHAM DIAGRAM

Ogham is an early Celtic system of markings that translate the Roman alphabet into 20 characters. The system could be seen as a kind of visual serialism. The marks are usually made on a corner of a standing stone.

In vowel grid, the marks for the five vowels are translated into five lengths.