

## The isolation of the West

*Michael Morris – Clip 2*

I think that it was partially the isolation of the West. At that time very little got over the Rockies going in either direction, this was nothing new, Emily Carr said that working in British Columbia was working on the edge of nowhere. There wasn't really this strong sense of the Pacific Rim, the whole Pacific culture and the culture of the West Coast that there is today. This was the sort of atmosphere that I grew up in. I was impatient with that. It was my generation, my contemporaries, who did post-graduate studies in other parts of the world, and came back a little bit later in the mid-sixties to Canada with the sense that art was something that you did now, it was about the present, art was the essence of time and the critique of the time. We started to reinvent working in Canada. That's kind of where I come in. My concerns in art have covered the whole spectrum of involvement, interaction, collaboration and experimentation with my peers. Yes that's been my life, you can't say that I'm only a painter or I'm only a photographer or I'm only a video artist or I'm only a performer. You do what's appropriate to the time.