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## Images of the Third Millennium

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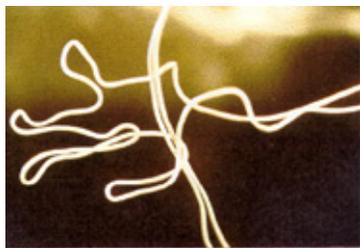
## Images of the Third Millennium

By Hilarie Roseman

*Utilizing as a theoretical background the work of Marshall McLuhan (Understanding Media, 1964), Hilarie Roseman explores in her plastic expression media imagery, religion and the human experience.*

### Electronic Grasping

In 1991 I researched Catholic access, use and evaluation of human sexuality messages from the Church and secular sources in the mass media (Roseman, 2000). I later structured my understanding of the modern person grasping for information as a “Wired in Woman with a Broken Heart” (Roseman, 1999). The media mind of the Catholic cohort was large: they read 36 newspapers, 68 magazines, listened to most radio stations, watched TV news, Current Affairs programmes and 132 comedy programmes, 77 drama programmes, 75 soap programs and 71 game shows.

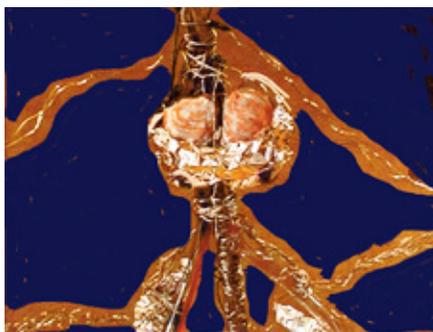


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### Close Up of Brain

McLuhan says that [the] *electronic man wears his brain outside his skull* (McLuhman, 1989: 94). As we outer our consciousness into electronic

circuitry, it will be more difficult to have an inner synthesis. And if we only use the right side of our brain to take in images from the electronic media, and leave the left, analytic side unused, we become like the stroke victim. We lose “some or all of (our) ability to speak or to write [...] the experience, not unlike being stoned on drugs or alcohol” (p.73). With no critical questions asked, we become a media memory. *Memory itself is mind* – says Augustine – and so, we become the media mind (Augustine, 1992).



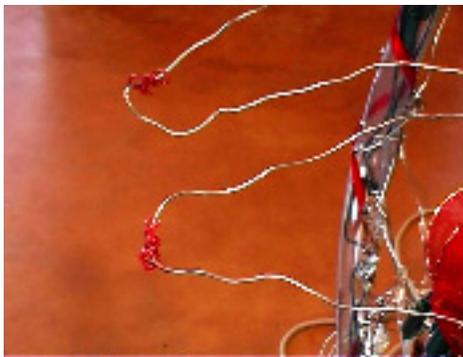
Whoever controls the memory controls the world. Bin Laden understands this, and so the images of peaceful means of transport being turned into horrific death images are burnt into our memory. And, as my respondents assure me, they do act on messages received from the media. If you’re not sure of this truth, ring up the airlines.

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## Wired in Woman, Breast

Melbourne Catholics accessed almost 200 human sexuality messages from their TV entertainment shows. These messages ranged from memories in mind about affairs, flirting, sex roles, bishops knowing prostitutes, degrading but funny messages about homosexuals, sex in middle age and rampant sex in old age, condoms, communication between men and women and their relationships.

It is in the field of relationships, especially relationships of men and women, that they show the greatest loss of traditional Catholic culture. They say they do not believe in anyone when it comes to human sexuality, although they gain most of their new human sexuality information from the mass media. Whoever controls the memory controls the relationships between men and women.




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## The Discarnate Body

The wired in woman that I constructed shows us what it is like to be discarnate, without flesh. McLuhan says that we are putting



our nervous system outside of us, we are “translating (our) nervous system into electronic circuitry” and interfacing with media messages of the world p.94). “It is not the message that travels at electronic speed...the sender is sent, minus a body” (p.20). We are in fact, discarnate. The human being of the third millennium “is not flesh and blood, he is an item in a data bank, ephemeral” (p.94).

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## Broken Heart

The heart of the wired in woman starts to break. She is not sure who she is anymore. Her memory is part of her nervous system; she begins to lose the memory of who she is because she lives with images in her head of people living and loving in a fantasy world. She holds terror images from other countries locked forever in memory. Her own experiences are starting to fade.



The heart “place of decision deeper than our psychic drive...is a place of truth where we choose life or death ” (CC, 1994: 614) If it is deprived of memories of incarnate encounter the heart either breaks or turns into stone, or as. McLuhan says “astounded...or stunned” (Augustine, 1992: 250).

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### **Wired in Woman Bowed Down**

The wired in woman is bowed down with information from the mass media and lack of



information of her own internal message system. She is not listening to her incarnate body. She has amplified her

senses outside of herself. Her brain is outside of herself. She is prey to those who want power in the world. They need her brain to be sensitized by their agenda, to act on their desires, to be so enveloped in their messages that they can control her memory. Whoever controls the memory controls the world.

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### **The Healed Heart**

The broken heart is mended by being part of a loving, local community. Primary memories for an incarnate people come from the five senses. We need, as Americans and Australians are being told now, to be alert in our local community. We need to know what is going on there. We need to be open to what is happening, to be involved in affirmation, building up, knowing more of what is available to the five senses, and gathering together to make sense from the information, and then grow forward in truth, knowledge, love and hope. That which takes us away from the love, the peace, the knowledge of our local community is causing great havoc in our memory. Memory is soul, according to Augustine (McLuhan, 1989: 73). Are we to be discarnate, and without soul in the third millennium?



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