

# Artist Opens Computer Art Show

*"Computer graphics makes visible what is invisible to the human eye."*  
Isaac Kerlow

Artist Isaac Kerlow, the founding Chairman of the Computer Graphics Department at Pratt Institute, discussed the evolution of computer art with Museum Members last October. The occasion was the opening of "Digital Image/Digital Photography: The 1990 SIGGRAPH Traveling Art Show." This elegant juried exhibition of new computer art runs through February 1, 1991.

The show represents some of the finest work being done today, featuring 30 works by computer artists from around the world. It includes stereo art, animation on videotape, prints, paintings, plotter-drawings and photos, glass construction and phscolograms.

Kerlow's own work in the show is typical of his style which integrates the computer with more traditional artist's tools. He described the technique he used to do the painting, "Ornament Over The Promenade," a large acrylic on linen with both ancient and modern imagery. A Digital Equipment Corporation VAX 11/780 created 3-D models of images. These were made into slides which he projected onto a canvas, and then traced in pencil and hand-painted.

Many of the other artists in the Museum's show—Karen Hillier, William Latham, Barbara Nessim, Dr. Alvy Ray Smith, Micha Riss, and Kenneth Snelson—combine aesthetics, scientific research and state of the art technology in creations bridging the gap between art and science.

It is "both fitting and fortunate that The Computer Museum, which is devoted to the use and impact of computers, is hosting a show of established artists who have turned to computers in their work," says Dr. Oliver Strimpel, the Museum's Executive Director.

A prestigious international panel of artists and curators judged more than 2000 entries from 500 artists representing over 20 countries.

The SIGGRAPH Art Show has been the only continuous venue for American computer artists since 1981. This year's Traveling Show pieces were chosen by Patric Prince, SIGGRAPH Traveling Art Show Chair, from the 10th Annual SIGGRAPH Art Show displayed in August 1990 during the 17th Annual Conference on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques in Dallas, TX.

The exhibit catalog, *Digital Image/Digital Cinema*, a special issue of *LEONARDO*, the Journal of the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology, is available at the Museum Store.

Photograph: Ted Groves



Artist Isaac Kerlow explains to Oliver Strimpel, Collections Director Gwen Bell, and Traveling Art Show Chair Patric Prince how he used a computer to create "Ornament Over The Promenade," the artwork behind them. From the left: Strimpel, Bell, Kerlow, Prince.