# **FAX TRANSMITTAL**

# The Computer Museum

300 Congress Street Boston, MA 02210

TEL [617] 426. 2800 FAX [617] 426. 2943

Date:	11 April 1994						
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~	Marsk Winstman	Magaag	husetta C	1+	lounai 1		
To:	Mark Winetrout	, Massac	nusetts C	ultural (	Council		
From: _	Brian Wallace	[Media A	rts Exhib	it Develo	per]	342	# 1 <sup>2</sup>
Ml	- f		_				
Number	of pages (including cove	er sheet):	7				

Notes:

Mark, thanks for your call; I've enclosed my C.V., our Board of Trustees, and our Board of Overseers. If I can supply you with ANY other information, do let me know.

Thank you again,

Mu

Education:

Ithaca College, Ithaca NY

**B.A. History**, 1983

Psi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

Brian Wallace

Media Arts Exhibit Developer and Manager Historical Collection

The Computer Museum

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland

Graduate research: History, historiography of art, 1987-8

300 Congress Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Massachusetts College of Art, Boston MA

Graduate course: Contemporary critical theory, 1991

617.426.2800 x342

Internet: wallace@tcm.org

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA

Graduate course: Research methods in contemporary history, 1992

Experience:

Teacher, City of Boston Public Schools, Boston MA, 1983-5

Manager, Assistant Curator, Boulder Arts Cooperative, Boulder CO, 1985-7

Cataloguer, Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, 1987-8

Media Arts Exhibit Developer/Historical Collection Manager, The Computer Museum, Boston

MA, 1989-present

Board Member, Do While Studios, Boston, MA, 1992-present

Board Member, New England Chapter, Museum Computer Network, 1993-present

Publications, Projects:

Contributor, The Computer Museum Annual Report and News

1989 - present

Curator, Tools & Toys: Explore the Personal Computer computer art module

Work by local artists in permanent Museum exhibit

June 1992, The Computer Museum, Boston

Chair, From 'Le Musée Imaginaire' to Walls Without Museums

Panel discussion on art museums, art and technology

August 1992, Association for Computing Machinery SIGGRAPH Conference

Curator, Editor, The Computer Is Not Sorry

Art exhibit, performance and lecture series, catalogue

January 1993, the Space, Boston

Curator, Editor, First Impressions: Digital Photography

Art exhibit, brochure

May - August 1993, The Computer Museum

Contributor, Editor, Internet Guide

The Computer Museum and The Children's Museum staff usage guide

August, 1993

Contributor, Boston Computer Society Magazine

"Each Informs the Other: Telecommunications Art"

November 1993

Contributor, Art New England "The Museum of the Future"

February-March 1994

Contributor, Museum News

"Museums and the Information Superhighway" (working title, forthcoming)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES The Computer Museum FY 1994

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# **APPLICATION**

This is an Application for: 

General Project Support or 

Education Project Support

Application Must Be Typed Due March 1, 1994

Copy Original Application Forms for Each Request

APPLICANT INFORMATION	Geo-Political Information of street address
Federal Employer ID Number 0 4 2 7 4 7 0 1 7	(Contact city/town hall) Boston
The Computer Museum Applicant Organization	0_3 Ward0_6 Precinct
Applicant Name Also Known As (if different from above)	Salvatore DiMasi State Representative
300_Congress Street	Robert Travaglini State Senator
Boston, MA 02210 City/State/Zip	_John_Joseph_Moakley U.S. Congressman
SAME Mailing Address	·
City/State/Zip	
Zraket, Mr. Charles, Chairman of the B	oard, MITRE
Strimpel, Dr. Oliver, Executive Direct Executive Direct (last, first)	or Title
Wallace, Brian, Collections Manager Project Contact last, first\	Title
617.426.2800 617.426.2943  Daytime Telephone Fax Number TTY/TDD Number	
Provide a title for the activities described in this grant request.	
The Computer into the Studio: A Symposium on	Artists' Access to Digital Media
Summarize the activities this grant would support. (3 lines of text only)	
For Administration and execution of a 1-day Sy Museum on the Social and Artistic Repercussion ability, affordability and applicability of media.	ns of the increasing avail-
Summarize the mission of your organization. (3 lines of text only)	
To educate and inspire people of all ages a the world through dynamic exhibitions and proapplication and the impact of computers.	nd backgrounds from around grams on technology,

THIS IS AN APPLICATION FOR: X GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT OR **EDUCATION PROJECT SUPPORT** 

Date Incorporated (month-day-year) 7 - 1 - 82

Project Start Date\_\_\_\_9\_ - 23 \_\_\_ - \_94\_\_

Year Fiscal Year Ends (month-day) \_\_\_\_6\_ = \_\_30\_\_

Project End Date 11 - 30 - 94

You Total Income Last Year \$1,770,356 (operating)

Yo. Total Operating Expenses Last Year,

\$1,822,779

Projected Audience Size For Project

200 plus exposure through videotape

135,000 Projected Total Annual Attendance

## BUDGET FOR PROPOSED PROJECT

Project Income (excluding MCC Reguest) \$4,900

Pro a Expenses \$8,900

MC. Request Amount \$4,000

Authorized Signature: The signature below is the roll the person authorized to testify as to the accuracy of this application and that of the person who agrees that the require a public ackness ledgment will be given to the Massachusetts Cultural Council sapplication is approved

Signad by

Executive Ocicela

# The Computer Museum

The Computer Museum's mission is to educate and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds from around the world through dynamic exhibitions and programs on the technology, application, and impact of computers. The Computer in the Studio (the art exhibition and related programs described in this application) reaffirms The Computer Museum's commitment to examining the cultural implications of computer technology for the arts and humanities. The Computer Museum derives support from local, national, and international companies like Lotus Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Mitsubishi Corporation, local foundations like the Boston Globe Foundation and the Kapor Family Foundation, national foundations like the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Hearst Foundation, and bodies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation.

The Computer Museum has presented computer art exhibits and related events since 1980. Exhibits have ranged from art made by artificial-intelligence systems to one-artist exhibitions of digital photography, and from a live computerized portrait session by a School of the Museum of Fine Arts faculty member to international surveys of the state of computer art and design. Events have included animation festivals, an educational program on the computer as an artistic tool, a New England Computer Arts Association symposium on creativity in the computer arts, and lectures by artists, critics, and curators involved in computer art. Two permanent exhibits, *Tools and Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer*, and *Robots and other Smart Machines*, have an art component. The Museum curatorial staff includes a media arts exhibit developer with the mandate to reach out to the regional artistic community.

#### The Exhibition

The Computer in the Studio, an exhibition of a new generation of computer-assisted art, will be on display from 23 September through 27 November, 1994. The exhibition is being organized by the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and The Computer Museum, and will be shown at both museums. Included will be approximately 75 works by 15-20 artists from the New England region, representing the broad range of media impacted by available computer technology: painting, drawing, prints, photography, collage, sculpture, mosaic, installation, animation, and multi-media pieces.

Slides 1-7 illustrate art works under consideration for the show, including two slides each of work by Jennifer Hall (1, 2) and Doug Kornfeld (3, 4), participants in the symposium described below.

The spectrum of artistic applications of computer technology grows with burgeoning access, increasing flexibility of the tools, and growing dialogue amongst artists. The Computer in the Studio addresses the pluralistic landscape of contemporary art, involving politics, race, gender, perception, appropriation, and sheer beauty. When artists examine computer technology, it is not in terms of the machine itself, but in terms of the social and cultural implications of the machine and its ubiquity in American society.

Additional components of The Computer in the Studio include an 80-page illustrated catalogue, artist and docent/visitor assistant talks, educational outreach programs at both museums, and a symposium on artists' access to computer technology.

## The Symposium

The Computer Museum will organize and host a day-long symposium on the state of artists' access to computer technology entitled The Computer into the Studio. The goal of the symposium is to help artists, educators, and students articulate their needs to an increasingly receptive technical community, and to help both the artistic and technical communities work together. To assist follow up and the continued concrete sharing of information and resources, the names of helpful individuals and institutions, specific products, educational programs, and support groups will be distributed, and the symposium will be videotaped and made available to interested individuals and institutions.

The symposium will bring together artists, teachers, students, community educators, arts advocates, technologists, and the exhibition curators in a discussion of the social and artistic dimensions of increased access to computer technology. Since the symposium will consist of a series of sessions that focus on specific issues (education, access, creativity, technology) interspersed with breakout sessions, symposium attendees and participants — who represent groups that might not otherwise have the opportunity to question and educate one another — will be able to continue their dialogue while viewing the Computer in the Studio exhibition. The issues addressed in the course of the symposium mirror a larger debate on the relationships between American cultures and technologies.

#### **Participants**

Lowrey Burgess, a fellow at Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Creative Inquiry and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Visual Studies, artist, and educational theorist, will describe the creation of tools designed to enable students and teachers to create their own computer-based learning modules on the history of art and culture.

Nicholas Capasso, co-curator of The Computer in the Studio, DeCordova Museum Associate Curator, and art historian with a specialization in public art projects, will discuss the artistic process behind the creation of specific works in the exhibition, paying particular attention to the role technology plays in enabling artists to articulate their personal visions.

Sam Christy, The Computer Museum's Computer Clubhouse project manager, specialist in community outreach and mentor-based education, will describe the development of the Computer Clubhouse online art gallery, which makes computer art by underserved youth available over the Internet. Christy guides the creation of multidisciplinary educational projects that grow out of the interests of young people. He will focus on his work building relationships with student artists and art teachers from public schools and community organizations. The on-line gallery, and several of the artists, will be available to symposium attendees.

Jennifer Hall, director of Do While Studio, a Boston computer art atelier, Computer in the Studio artist, and media art teacher, will describe her Studio's mission to introduce visual artists to computer technology, educate art teachers, and provide intensive fellowships for mid-career computer artists and designers. Hall will also comment on From the Storm: Artists with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy, an exhibition she recently curated that includes several computer-assisted art pieces.

Jay Jaroslav, director of the Boston-based Center for Art Research, computer scientist, rare book and print expert, and advocate for a strong arts and humanities presence in the National Information Infrastructure ( the Clinton administration's blueprint for the so-called information superhighway), will discuss artists' access to new media. Jaroslav will discuss the results of *Towards a 21st Century Cultural Alliance: and Arts and Humanities Agenda for the National Information Infrastructure*, a symposium at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge on 12-14 October 1994.

Doug Kornfeld, painter and computer artist, Computer in the Studio artist, resident artist at the Artists Foundation Gallery, and art teacher, will describe his own introduction to the computer as an artistic tool and his approach to teaching traditional and emerging art media at the DeCordova Museum School.

Renee LeWinter, computer expert, artist, and technology writer, will outline the technological developments that have fostered increased computer access by artists. LeWinter is contributing an

essay on the recent history of computer technology to The Computer in the Studio catalogue, and specializes in making the often-confusing world of computer graphics techniques and technologies understandable to lay audiences.

Brian Wallace, co-curator of The Computer in the Studio, Computer Museum media arts exhibit developer, and manager of the historical collection at The Computer Museum, will explore the content of new computer-assisted art against the backdrop of once-new media such as movable type and photography, and address the complex web of relationships between artistic quality, exclusivity, and access. Regarding organizational skills, Wallace has organized panel discussions and a conference on imaging and museums, curated several art exhibits at The Computer Museum and at other cultural venues in Boston. He has also written on art and technology for the Boston Computer Society magazine, Art New England magazine, and edited a catalogue of computer installation art (see supporting materials).

The Computer Museum regularly organizes programs and symposia on a range of issues, drawing on supporters in academia and industry to formulate and address topics of interest to both lay and specialized audiences. Recent projects include the Loebner Prize for Artificial Intelligence, the Harvard Cup Computer Chess Championship, and a symposium on the future of the personal computer industry. The Museum's auditorium, with a capacity of 350 people, is, like the rest of the Museum, fully accessible to the disabled and a short walk from public transportation and parking.

In the case of The Computer into the Studio symposium, many of the participants will be working together on the concurrent joint exhibition, catalogue, and educational materials, as well as on the symposium itself, over the course of the next seven months. Two round table preparatory sessions are scheduled.

The Computer Museum Gen Proj Sup

## Timetable

The Computer into the Studio symposium will take place on either 5 or 12 November 1994, one of the last Saturdays during The Computer in the Studio exhibition.

Planning in the form of solicitation of participants, other fund-raising activities, etc., has been pursued since August 1993.

Technical planning will begin in August, once the participants have made final decisions on content and form of their opening presentations.

Evening roundtable preparatory sessions will be held in June and August at The Computer Museum.

Videotape materials will be available approximately 6 weeks after the symposium.

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# CULTURAL ACCESS INFORMATION

# ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE:

FOR "TOTAL # OF," COUNT EACH PERSON ONLY ONCE:	Total # 21 Board	Total # of Staff	Total = :: Project Advisory Emmittee	Total # of Artists/Humanists/ Scientists participating in the project <sub>v</sub> if applicable	Total # of Columteers
INCLUDE EACH PERSON IN AS MANY CATEGORIES AS APPLICABLE:	Board	Staff	Project Advisory Committee	Artists/Humanists/ Scientists participating in the project (if applicable)	Valunteers
African Americans	2	2			1.0
Asian Americans					10
Later Americans					
Native Americans					
Whites	3.8	8	-4	88	50:
Vietnum Veterans	<del>-</del>	-,			<del>-</del>
Women	6	6		3	6.0
Persons with Disabilities				1	
Elders (65 or older)		2			
Youtt, 18 or younger)					4

#### DISABILITY ACCESS PROFILE

DISABILITY ACCESS PROFILE		
	Circle "Y" (Yes)	or "N" (No)
Are your organization's programs and services wheelchair-accessible?	(Y)	N
Does the facility used for programs have lavatory facilities for individuals with disabilities?	(Y)	N
Are your programs and services accessible to individuals who have visual limitations by providing audio description, tactile exhibits, braille, and/or large print?	Y	(N)
Are your programs and services accessible to individuals who have hearing limitations by providing ASL interpretation, audio loops and/or TTY/TDD?	Y	(N)
Have you sought technical assistance on issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities?	<b>(Y)</b>	N
Are you actively removing architectural and communication barriers?	( Y <u>)</u> :	N
Does your organization own its own facility?	(Y)	N
<ul><li>a. Was it built or renovated since 1975?</li><li>b. Are all usable rooms and floors wheelchair-accessible?</li></ul>	Y (Y)	(N)

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\*GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT OR

EDUCATION PROJECT SUPPORT

# **BUDGET INCOME**

	FY95 PROJECT INCOME	FY96 PROJECT INCOME (For two-year Education Project applicants only)
A. ADMISSIONS Ticket Sales Subscriptions TOTAL	***************************************	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
B. CONTRACTED SERVICES REVENUE Performance, Residency Fees Tunions, Fees Through Sale of Services		
C. OTHER INCOME e.g.,Concessions, Sales, Parking, Publicatio Rentals, Gift Shop, Investment Income	ons,	
D. NON-GOVERNMENT Corporate/Business Foundation Clubs/Organizations Other Private Contributions including Fundraising Events TOTAL	\$2000	
E. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT Federal (NEA/NEH/NSF/IMSF_riher) MCC (do not include this grant request) Local Cultural Council State (other than MCC) Municipal School Department TOTAL		
F. APPLICANT CASH	\$700	·
G. SUBTOTAL (add totals from A through F)	<b>\$3,700</b>	
H. GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$4,000	
I. TOTAL CASH INCOME (add G and H)	\$7,700	
J. IN-KIND SERVICES, MATERIALS, FACILITIES	\$1,200	
K. TOTAL PROJECT INCOME	\$8,900	

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\*\*GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT OR | EDUCATION PROJECT SUPPORT

# BUDGET EXPENSES

All applicants must itemize in-kind goods or services and/or collaborator expenses on a separate page. Further detail on other line items may also be provided, as necessary.

may also be provided, as necessary.	·	
	FY95 PROJECT EXPENSES	FY96 PROJECT EXPENSES (For two-year Education Project applicants only)
A. SALARIED PERSONNEL	3500	
Artistic/Humanistic/Scientific	2500 1500	
Technical/Production	1200	
Administrative/Professional	1500	
Administrative/Support	250	
Fringe % FOTAL	5750	
B. OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	S	
Artistic/Humanistic/Scientific		
Technical/Production		
Other:		
TOTAL	\$0	
C. SPACE RENTAL		
Program-Related		
Office		
TOTAL "	\$0	
D. TRAVEL		
In-state		
Out-of-state	250	
Lodging/Meals	250	
TOTAL	\$500	•
E. MARKETING		
Promotion/Advertising (excluding fundrasing	\$0	
	•	N.
F. REMAINING EXPENSES		
Program Consumables		
Program Equipment Rental 🔑	1000	
Program-Related Printing/Duplicating	100	<i>&gt;</i>
Office Supplies	50	
Office Equipment Rental		
Shipping and Trucking	150	
Postage	150	
Utilities/Telephone	150	
Insurance		
Ensuring Access	<u> </u>	
Other:	\$1450	
TOTAL		
G. TOTAL CASH EXPENSES (add totals from A through F)	\$7700	
H. TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	1200	
TOTAL DROVE TYPE		
I. TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES (add G and H)	\$8,900	

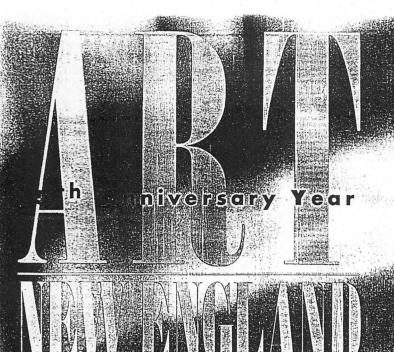
THIS IS AN APPLICATION FOR: X GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT OR PLEASE TYPE IN A FONT NO SMALLER THAN 10 POINT

# SUPPORT MATERIAL INVENTORY

Use this space only.

For instructions about support material, see pages 15-17. Material will be treated the way you indicate below under "Should Item Be Returned?" For mailed return, remember to supply a self-addressed stamped mailer or box. To pick-up material from the MCC's Boston office, you must claim it between July 1 - September 15, 1994. Material will be discarded if no instruction is given.

ltem		nted otherwise]: Should Item Be Returned?			
🔲 1/2" VHS Video C	assette	[ No	🛚 Yes:	Mail X Pick up	
☐ 1/4" Audio Casse	tte				
🗓 Slides [no more t	han 10]				
Photographs [no	more than 10]				
☐ Book/Magazine/Jo [7 copies of 1 iter	ournal (Literature Applica m]	NTS ONLY'			
Optional Printed Mater i.e., 1 program, 1 brock	hure and 1 catalogue O	R 2 programs	and 1 bro	chure, etc.]	ems
Item ☐ Program(s)	Quantity		, ,	Be Returned?	
Brochure(s)	and district the sales of the s			□ Mail □ Pick ap	
✓ Catalogue(s)	**************************************	□ No		☐ Mail <b>X</b> □ Pick-up	
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X Other:	article	E No	<b>∑</b> Yes:	□ Mail <b>X</b> □ Pick-ap	
Required for Education Item	Project Support Applica	ations ONLY: Should	l Item Be	Returned?	
Required for Education Item I sample set of prep	Project Support Applica paration and	ations ONLY:	l Item Be		
. Required for Education	Project Support Applica paration and	ations ONLY: Should	l Item Be	Returned?	
Required for Education Item  1 sample set of prep follow-up activities of the ECTION II: Complete either. Video cassette, audio of the ECTION II: Complete either.	Project Support Application and or materials.  The Part A or Part B cassette, CD, or book/materials.	ations ONLY: Should  No  * agazine/journ	l Item Be  Ves:	Returned?   Mail Pick-up   sions:	
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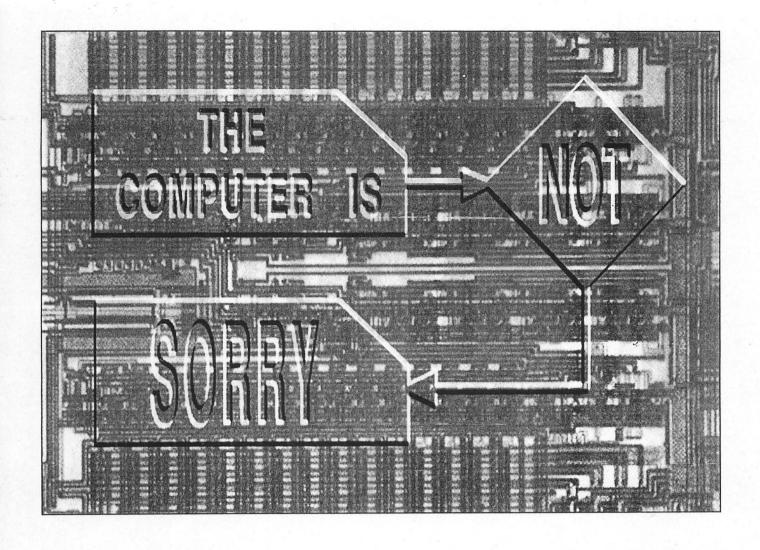
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Opidado./Avri obje**ois** opidado./Worksho**os** 

art and technology issue



Carol Welsh Computer Museum 300 Congress Street, Museum Wharf Boston MA 02210 PROFILE TO GO GO THE STATE OF GENERAL COSCILLATIONS OF THE STATES OF THE



A group show of computer installation art, hypertext and music



the Space
107 South Street
Boston MA 02111

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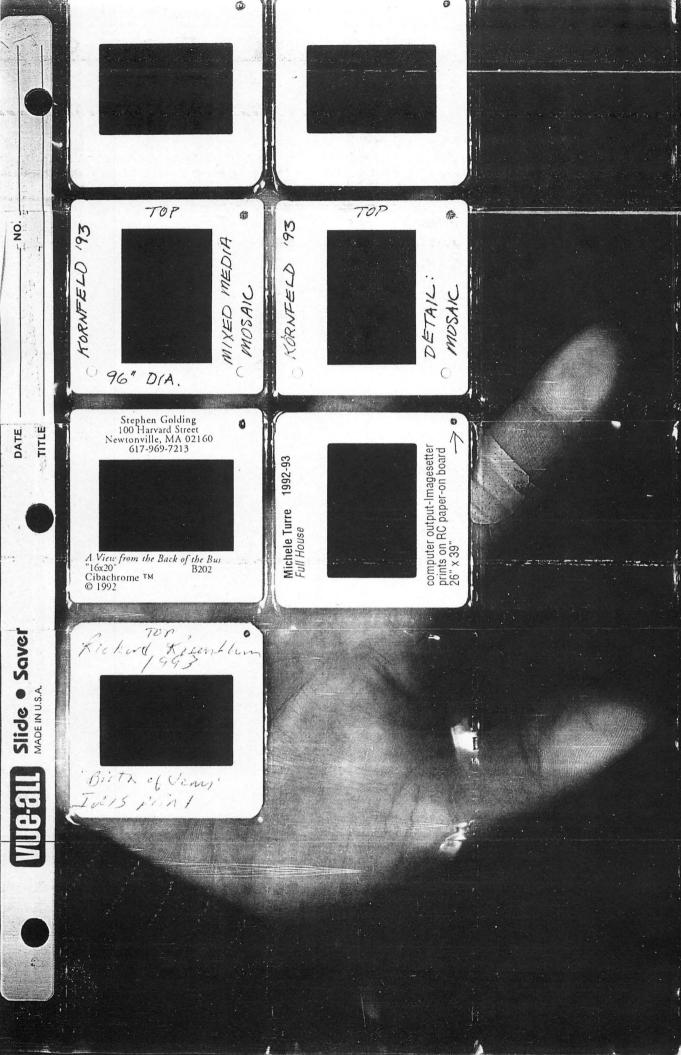
B. Slides/Photographs Submissions:

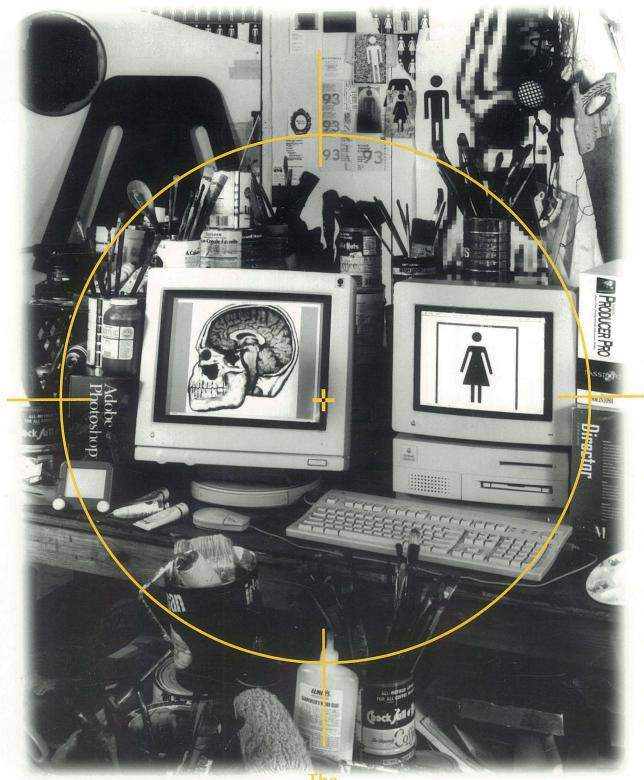
Refer to page 16 for detailed instructions on how to submit slides/photos.

In the space below, provide the applicable information about each slide/photo: artist's name, medium, date of work/activity, dimensions of artwork, and location. For events or installations, include a brief description.

Be sure that the slide/photo numbers on this sheet correspond to the numbers on the actual slides/photos!

slides/photos!	<u>·                                      </u>
April 1993	Slide/Photo 2 Jennifer Hall dio Performance at Do While Studio April 1993 ed View of performance/projection stic with live dancer
Slide/Photo 3 Doug Kornfeld Mosaic/mixed media 1993-4 96" diameter artist's studio	Slide/Photo 4 Doug Kornfeld Mosaic/mixed media 1993-4 96" diameter artists' studio
Slide/Photo 5 Steven Golding Cibachrome print 1992 16" x 22" artist's studio	Slide/Photo 6 Michelle Turre Digital Imagesetter 1992-3 26" x 39" artist's studio
Slide/Photo 7 Richard Rosenblum Iris inkjet print 1993 Approx. 22" x 30" artist's studio	Slide/Photo 8
Slide/Photo 9	Slide/Photo 10





# Computer in the Studio

The Computer Museum

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

# Principal Sponsor

## AT&T

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Scitex America

This project is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Funded in part by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



#### Organized by

Nicholas Capasso, Associate Curator DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

Brian Wallace, Media Arts Exhibit Developer
The Computer Museum

with special assistance from George Fifield, *Curator* VideoSpace at DeCordova

## **Foreword**

The collaborative nature and the interdisciplinary theme of The Computer in the Studio underscore the exhibition's main message: technology and art do not exist in isolation. Rather, they exert both direct and subtle influences upon one another through the culture they inhabit. Illustrating this point is the fact that The Computer in the Studio has provided both museums' staff and friends with an opportunity for contact with groups and individuals they might otherwise never have come across in a professional context. Visitors to the exhibition and participants in the educational programs at both museums will benefit from the fruits of this institutional collaboration as they encounter powerful challenges to familiar ways of thinking about art and computing.

Thanks are due to the exhibition's co-curators, DeCordova Museum Associate Curator Nicholas Capasso and Computer Museum Media Arts Exhibit Developer Brian Wallace. Nick and Brian conceived the idea for the exhibit, proposed the idea of a collaboration between our institutions, and executed this impressive show and catalog. In the face of many difficult practical, conceptual, and æsthetic hurdles, they have produced an exhibition that includes a rich array of contemporary art and a thoughtful survey of artistic uses of contemporary computing technology. We are proud of this accomplishment, and we hope that the collaborative as well as the creative aspects of The Computer in the Studio serve as an inspiring example to other cultural institutions.

A project of this scope would not have been possible without a generous financial contribution from AT&T, and financial support and guidance from Chromacopy, Inc., Iris Graphics, Inc., the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts, Nimrod Press, Howard Salwen, and Scitex America. We are grateful to them for their continued support.

Paul Master-Karnik, *Director*DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

Oliver Strimpel, *Executive Director* The Computer Museum

# Acknowledgments

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Nicholas Capasso Brian Wallace

## Who's Got the Box?

by Nicholas Capasso

During the early 1990s, a quiet revolution began to take place in the world of contemporary art. The domain of computer-assisted art, a once benighted province populated by utopian artist-technologists, academics, and hardware junkies, was thrown open to admit a host of new enthusiasts. Artists of all stripes and persuasions began to take up the tools of computer technology. In the process, "computer art" changed.

When computer art first emerged in the mid-1960s, its products were for the most part highly technological and experimental. Artists explored the boundaries and possibilities of new and rapidly developing computer tools with self-reflexive works, with their content circumscribed by the conditions of the machine. The best examples of this high-tech art-about-art were thoughtful explorations of the technology and its uses and abuses. The worst were uncritical celebrations of the gee-whiz wonders of the latest and greatest hardware and software. Today, computer-assisted art is not necessarily about computers. Owing to increased artist access to computers and their technological kin, art made with the help of computers is about anything and everything deemed viable in the aesthetic climate of pluralism that has prevailed since the early 1970s.

These are the core ideas underlying The Computer in the Studio. Now that the computer is truly in the studio, and not locked away on military installations, in university labs, or in the halls of commerce, thousands of artists are adopting the tools, bending them to their own ends, transforming traditional art media, inventing new ones, and expressing the vast range of thoughts and feelings that emerge from the human mind and heart. The Computer in the Studio has a special focus on New England artists—not because computer-assisted art is any more advanced or widespread here than in other regions of the country, but to represent in microcosm a national phenomenon, and to reveal to regional audiences the types of artwork being created with the help of computers in their own backyard.

Artists in droves finally got their hands on computers because, quite simply, personal computers and related technologies became better and cheaper. An artist who, for example, might spend a few thousand dollars per annum on equipment and materials can now spend an equivalent amount to purchase or rent very sophisticated, very fast, and very versatile image-processing hardware and software.

Access to computer technology is also available outside of artists' homes and studios. Due primarily to student demand, educational institutions have recently added computer-assisted art courses to their curricula. Moreover, these schools have made major investments in computers, monitors, printers, scanners, digital cameras, non-linear video editing systems, modems, software, and a host of other tools and materials unavailable to art students just a few years ago.

The proliferation of service bureaus—businesses that provide access to very expensive machines on a per-job basis—has also enabled artists to work with previously inaccessible technologies. Ambitious projects of great magnitude and complexity are now within the financial reach of many artists.

Recently, an art historical institution, the atelier, has been adapted to meet the needs of the new generation of computer-literate artists. These shared studios or workshops traditionally provided tools, training, and services under the direction of master artists or craftspeople. Today, certain artists, well-versed in computer technology, run facilities stocked with hardware and software rather than easels, etching presses, or stone-carving tools.

The relative ease with which artists can now gain access to powerful digital tools has resulted in a wide spectrum of aesthetic applications. Some artists work with familiar media, but in new ways. Douglas Kornfeld, Tom Krepcio, and Ron Rizzi use computers to reinvigorate traditional art forms such as mosaic, stained glass, and oil painting, respectively. David Brody, Susan LeVan, and Hugh O'Donnell draw or paint, but not directly with material substances applied to surfaces. Rather, they choose to work with pure color, line, and light that is arranged and edited with software on monitors and output with computer printers to paper. Richard Benson, Greg O'Brien, and Deanne Sokolin all use digital tools to stretch the boundaries of the art of photography, and the motion in Janet Zweig's kinetic sculptures is provided by computer printers.

Over one-third of the artists included in The Computer in the Studio use a combination of scanning technology and image-processing software. Scanners allow images of drawings, photographs, objects—virtually any visual material—to be transferred into computers, where they appear on monitors and are subject to manipulation with software. The software allows artists to radically alter the original images by changing their size, orientation, color,

edges, and surfaces. Other changes are possible through the use of filters, digital processes which can twist, compress, explode, attenuate, geometricize, and distort forms in many other ways. Images may also be combined and layered in virtually endless configurations. Scanners and image-processing software have thus made the art of collage seamless. Also, when cutting and pasting are performed in the computer, pesky problems of scale and position are problems no more. Computer-assisted collage, also known as digital collage, digital montage, digital media, digital images, electronic imaging, and other monikers (because no consistent terminology has developed, due to the youth of this new medium), forms the basis of work by Emily Cheng, Steve Gildea, Stephen Golding, Dorothy Simpson Krause, Frank Ladd, Renée LeWinter, Olivia Parker, Richard Rosenblum, Anne Morgan Spalter, and Michele Turre. Other artists, such as Deborah Klotz Paris and Angela Perkins, use scanners and software to transmogrify single images rather than to arrange multiple visual elements. And Cheng, Klotz Paris, Krause, and Cathy Cone combine their computer-printed images with handapplied traditional art materials: oil paint, watercolor, wax, metallic powders, etc. The large proportion of scanned and manipulated images in The Computer in the Studio represents the fastest growing and most widespread trend in the realm of current computer-assisted art, made possible entirely by convenient artist access to personal computers.

The computer's capacity for seamless collage is taken into another dimension, quite literally, by computer video editing and animation programs. Video and animation artists Dena Gwin, Thomas E. Janzen and Sergio F. Guerra, Robin Marlowe, Joan Shafran, Karl Sims, and Jed Speare use recently available technologies to create, combine, layer, and sequence images, text, and sound. Sharon Daniel relies on somewhat different programs—random number generators—to help compose her work. The computer thus increases the aesthetic control of artists working in these time-based media. It also affords them a complexity once restricted to the high-budget products of Hollywood and Madison Avenue.

All the media discussed above existed, and continue to exist for many artists, without the involvement of computer technology. Computer-assisted interactive art, in which time-based works are created and presented with computers, and which allow active viewer participation, would be inconceivable without sophisticated digital tools. In pieces by The Boston Computer Society Virtual Reality Group, Greg Garvey, Douglas Kornfeld, and Daniel Spikol and

Hazen Reed, viewers engage in intellectual and aesthetic dialogues with artworks. In certain works, their responses are recorded and folded into the matrix of the work. Subsequent viewers may then interact with the contributions of a prior community of participants.

The next logical steps in this technological progression from oil painting through interactives is for artists to become involved with even more advanced interactive technologies provided by virtual reality, a new field whose goal is total sensory immersion in an orchestrated experience, and the Internet, a digital communications network that links millions of users worldwide. The Computer in the Studio does not include art produced with these technologies because artists do not yet have wide access to virtual reality and the Internet, and the few works produced so far tend to be experimental or self-reflexive, not unlike the "computer art" of the 1960s and 1970s. This too, however, will change, and soon, as the tools become cheaper, easier to use, and accessible to the artist population at large. Virtual reality and the Internet may represent the state of the technology, but in 1994 they are not yet the state of the art.

Computer-assisted art has met resistance from certain quarters. Many artists, art historians, and critics, entrenched in tradition, feel threatened or alienated by the new technologies in a scenario akin to the introduction of photography as an art form in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But to believe that contemporary and future artists will not, or should not, happily use the tools of their times, is naive in the extreme. Computers will continue to develop, costs will continue to plummet, and those engaged in the business of creativity will avail themselves of ever-increasing opportunities for expression. Very shortly, the oft-stated concern that computers will suck the humanity out of art will seem as culturally anachronistic as fears that a photograph will steal your soul or that a graven image will bring down the wrath of a jealous god.

## What's in the Box?

by Brian Wallace

The coach on the blackboard did scrawl His trickiest play of the fall Though his simulation Drew quite an ovation The quarterback fumbled the ball!

> Definition of simulation, in *Cybernetic Serendipity, the computer and the arts*, Institute for Contemporary Arts, London, 1968

In order to discern how computing technology influences contemporary artists who choose to use the computer, it is necessary to examine the ideas about computers—and technology in general—that artists encounter throughout contemporary culture. Unfortunately, the rigorous and extensive anthropological study of computing needed to determine the full range of these perceptions is well beyond the scope of this short essay, as is an examination of each of the works in the exhibition in light of the ideas set out here. A brief discussion of the computer as a means of representation does, however, shed some light on the impact of the technology on artists and the culture they inhabit.

The history of computing is often summarized as the machine's journey from scientific instrument to general-purpose tool. Often, this history focuses solely on the utility of the computer to military, scientific, and financial and industrial projects, and, more recently, educational and entertainment activities. This method of tracing history masks the similarities between the role of the computer in these activities. It overlooks the similarities between the activities themselves.

For example, a major building block of computing, Blaise Pascal's 17th-century mechanical calculator, the Pascaline, is usually presented as the fruit of scientific contemplation. Less known is the machine's genesis as a tool developed by the philosopher to aid his father's collection of taxes levied on the French populace to pay for the suppression of a peasant revolt. Thus, the Pascaline is simultaneously a scientific apparatus, a military machine, and a financial device. The similarity between these areas resides in the political role of the Pascaline as an instrument of state: through the multipurpose machine, individuals were subjected to statistical representation and remote control.

Subsequent breakthroughs in computing followed times of great social anxiety, political instability, or economic change. For example, beginning with the 1890 census, the census returns were tabulated with punched card systems. This development coincided with an explosion in immi-

gration to and migration within the United States, and gave rise to the identification, description, and categorization of the populace according to composite statistical portraits.

The automation of ballistics calculations achieved by U.S. military scientists during World War II resulted in the development of simulated targets that tested the ballistics of simulated weapons. These virtual targets replaced persons with numerically described agents. And, as so-called general purpose computers were built and incorporated into systems that maintained control over increasing amounts of information in post-war mathematics, insurance, banking, and industrial production and accounting, representations of human agency became ever more dependent upon statistical abstractions, such as "information."

While aspects of a person's cultural context are certainly subject to quantification and analysis, the notion of the mind as a disembodied information-processing engine seems so hopelessly inadequate to the task of describing the range of human endeavor as to beg the question, Why have the intuitive, associative aspects of the mind been so neglected? Is there a cultural anxiety driving our need to preserve an unknowable section of the mind?

In *Bodies and Machines*, his penetrating 1992 study of images of bodies and mechanical devices in late 19th and early 20th-century American literature, Mark Seltzer argues that definitions of these two concepts are deeply dependent upon one another. Seltzer traces the projection onto machines of cultural anxieties about the changing role of the individual person in a society increasingly organized around the distribution of wealth.

As technology achieved the sophistication necessary to mimic and adopt functions previously reserved for the body—and with the erosion of distinctions between beings and things brought on by the acceptance of thermodynamics—"the human organism [came to be considered primarily as a] productive machine, stripped of all social and cultural relations and reduced to 'performance,' which could also be measured in terms of energy and output." In order to enrich a parallel I would draw to today's uneasy codependence of minds and machines, it is necessary to follow Seltzer's analysis two steps further. He sees it as typical of the period in question that:

Linking together anxieties about the male natural body and the body of the nation—linking together, that is, body-building and nation-building—[boy scouting movement co-founder Ernest Thompson] Seton's [and Theodore] Roosevelt's programs for the making of men posit not merely that the individual is

something that can be made but that the male natural body and national geography are surrogate terms.

According to Seltzer, this relationship, which activated connections between the life cycle of the person and the development of the nation, led to the widespread connection of the idea of adolescence to the image of the young American nation.

At the end of the 20th century, the contemporary popular obsession with the computing activities of young males—cyberfiction heroes and antiheroes, hackers and crackers, writers of destructive computer code—links the individual adolescent to the culturally adolescent realm of cyberspace, an intra- and inter-computer construct often described as a frontier. But wild cyberspace, a place that tests the mettle of young minds and acts as a site for the expansive capitalism of a nation nostalgic for its own lost youth, is already showing signs of its limits. The military funding that generated the landscape dwindles, revealing the edges of the "endless" terrain, and the service sector encroaches upon the remaining, diminished frontier. Thus, American anxieties about diminishing military and business power are projected onto cyberspace and its young male denizens.

While computers and computing systems invisibly maintain and operate much of the world, computing technology is encountered most often through the use of computer graphics—another aspect of computing spawned by military and commercial forces—in education, the electronic and print media, and the advertising and entertainment industries. A recent Industry Week article by Polly LaBarre on youth-oriented projects in cyberspace describes "schools locked into a 'command and control' mode that forfeits experience and relevance for grades and departments." The conventions of virtual reality technology, propelled to maturity by the need for a more cost-effective way train soldiers in high-technology warfare, determine the look and feel of today's media. Sport events feature images of athletes competing against precision instruments as part of a montage of on-screen information. Newscasters and weather presenters direct, interact with, and project their own images onto informational collages. A Marine Corps television commercial portrays a metaphorical battle as high-resolution chess match, with the winner bloodlessly evaporating the vanquished foe. The scene is reminiscent of Susan Faludi's recent description of the campus of The Citadel, an institution conceived in response to post-Civil War anxiety about the state of male youth and Southern culture, in The New Yorker:

The campus has a dreamy, flattened quality, with its primary colors, checkerboard courtyards, and story-

book-castle barracks. It feels more like an architect's rendering of a campus—almost preternaturally clean, orderly, antiseptic—than the messy real thing.

Whether artists use computers in ways that involve complex programming or the call-and-response of graphical interactivity, the computer structures the flow of artistic work into discrete acts that recall the binary nature of the machine, and, by extension, the scientific description of the mind as rational, apprehending the world through measurable sensory input, and subject to functional description. Sooner or later, the machine demands an unambiguous yes or no from its user.

This is why all the artists in The Computer in the Studio, in order to express personal or critical positions, invoke the tradition of art as an expression of their deepest feelings. They blend computers with other technologies and bend their tool to explore such subjects as landscape, past art, and the body. As a whole, the works of art in the exhibition argue for a definition of computing broader than that based on scientific description of the mind. If an intellectual war game such as chess is a fit subject for computing, why not the thorny issues of spirituality, commerce, and the embodied intelligence—artificial or otherwise-explored by Greg Garvey's Automatic Confession Machine? Or the rhetorical representations of commercial gain undermined by Janet Zweig's use of informationsoaked printer paper as a simple mechanical device in Making Progress?

Of course, computers remain prohibitively expensive for many, and a hierarchy of production values guarantees the prominence of information and formats promulgated by wealthy, powerful groups. When they attempt to evade these conventions, do these artists distort the medium or broaden the notion of mind that the computer emulates? If the computer is to serve as a site for analysis and expression of the anxious relationship between mind, representation, and culture, it must accommodate a richer model of humanity. •

# The Artists

#### RICHARD BENSON

With the help of computer technology, Richard Benson has invented a method of using photographic data to create paintings. He uses photographs of his chosen subjects as the basis for a series of color separations, some derived digitally with computer programs. These separations are used to create gelatin stencils through which Benson applies hand-mixed acrylic paints to aluminum panels. For any given painting, the artist might use up to twelve separate stencils to lay down as many as forty alternating layers of paint and varnish. The final paintings are rich in color, over which Benson has complete control, and are immensely precise in visual detail.

For his images, the artist chooses places that reveal relationships between manufactured things and natural forces. Once-pristine industrial objects bear the traces of weather and wear-and-tear. Benson captures the beauty of the progression of time as it leaves its inexorable marks on the landscape. He states: "My whole life has been about the making of things-from crude bits of furniture or machinery, to very complex and refined pictures, prints, and books. It is because of this personal history that my paintings are about the issues of things produced by humanity and how they manage to maintain themselves against the multiple onslaughts of use, time, and neglect." N.C.

# THE BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY VIRTUAL REALITY GROUP

For the interactive computer installation North Water World, the Boston Computer Society Virtual Reality Group used sophisticated computer hardware and software to create a virtual world of vision and sound. Participants enter this world by assuming the persona and body of a wolf. The participant/wolf is then free to roam through and interact with an abstracted, animated, arctic environment. After two minutes, the wolf transmogrifies into a seal, which can swim at will for two more minutes under the ice until it is unavoidably con-

sumed by a killer whale. A third entity, an animal spirit, is then released to fly through a spiritualized realm of floating geometric shapes and patterns. The goal of *North Water World* is not to faithfully reproduce the sensory details of a particular place, but to elicit empathic and emotional responses from viewers as they inhabit the bodies and souls of other beings.

The purpose of the Boston Computer Society Virtual Reality Group is to provide an ongoing forum to bring scientists and developers together with virtual reality enthusiasts and potential users, such as artists, who do not normally attend virtual reality industry gatherings. By exploring both the technology and its cultural implications, and by sharing ideas and information, the Group hopes to help to shape the future of the medium. The primary project team responsible for the creation of North Water World are Project Leader and Lead Artist Amatul Hannan, Artist and 3D Modeler Ann Powers, Virtual Interface Developer and 3D Audio Designer Brenden Maher, and Virtual Reality Consultant Eben Gay of ERG Engineering, Inc. N.C.

#### DAVID BRODY

David Brody, best known as a painter, uses the computer to create drawings. Using software, he draws directly on the computer screen. Occasionally, he scans his drawings on paper into the computer and combines them with imagery created on the screen. Brody feels that the computer is an especially powerful tool for drawing because of its capability to instantly add and subtract visual elements, and to merge areas of separate drawings into new yet related compositions.

Brody's images are bizarre psychosexual narratives of frustrated desire, voyeurism, and male insecurities. Sketchy landscapes provide surreal settings for the confrontations of monstrous cartoon-like figures enacting dramas fraught with sadness, fear, and dark humor. Brody explains, "My subject is the human tragicomedy." N.C.

#### **EMILY CHENG**

Emily Cheng is a painter and printmaker who appropriates and combines images from the early histories of Byzantine, Renaissance, and Chinese art to explore the ways different cultures represent the visual world.

Using a personal computer, a scanner, and graphics software, Cheng converts selected photographs from art history books into digital images, then creates montages from the scanned images. After she outputs the montages with an ink jet printer onto archival paper, Cheng applies water-based colors to the image in the shape of decorative motifs influenced by the history of art and architecture, a process that further alters the images by obscuring and disrupting the watersoluble print colors. The delicate works in the Bodhissatva Series blur the lines between several sets of polar oppositesoriginal and copy, painting and printmaking, and Eastern and Western artistic traditions. B.W.

#### CATHY CONE

Cathy Cone's works on paper contain mysterious, ephemeral abstract images. Shapes shift, drip, and coalesce in an ambiguous space where image, object, symbol, and material fleetingly coexist. Vaguely biological, the images seem to indicate a state of growth, becoming, or evolution.

To achieve these visual qualities, Cone combines new technologies with traditional painting techniques. Using a scanner, she loads images of animal bones into computer software. There, the images are manipulated digitally and then transferred to paper with a computer ink jet printer. Cone then overlays portions of the printed ground with pastels, oil paint, and watercolor. The watercolor provides an interesting creative opportunity, because it disturbs and, in effect, paints with the water-based dyes from the ink jet printer. Using centuries-old painting tools, Cone manages to bend a new technological tool to her unique aesthetic ends. N.C.

#### SHARON DANIEL

With *Narrative Contingencies*, Sharon Daniel attempts to subvert the languages that make up the video medium: image, sound, and text. As a feminist, Daniel believes that the linear, unified and organic structure of language, as constructed by the patriarchy, is limited and limiting. She offers an alternative, a subtle loose narrative in which meaning is created through juxtaposition rather than linear sequencing of image, sound, and text. This newly ordered language stresses the subjective over the objective, values emotional nuance over plot or script, and admits of chance and open-ended interpretation.

Daniel composed her sequences of image, sound, and text with the help of random number generators—computer programs designed to break down linearity and introduce chance to systems. Stated succinctly by the artist, "Narrative Contingencies disengages the production of image and language from its ideological matrix by forcing it through filters of random and chance operations." N.C.

## GREGORY GARVEY

In 1993 Gregory Garvey built the *Automatic Confession Machine* (*ACM*), a computer-equipped kiosk that acts as an electronic confessional. The viewer/user kneels at a computer to enter the frequency and severity of his or her sins into a computer program scripted by the artist. After calculating the magnitude of the user's sins, the *ACM* prints an absolution onto a paper receipt.

While he is aware that the similarities between the ACM and an ATM raise questions about the similarities between spiritual and financial accounting, Garvey hopes his work is seen not as an antichurch statement, but rather as a warning against what he sees as a "redefinition of spiritual needs as yet another commodity to be researched, marketed, and packaged." The notion of an artificial confessor also recalls the Turing Test, proposed by English mathematician Alan Turing in 1950, which holds that if a computer can convince (via remote terminal-to-terminal interaction) a human questioner that he or she is communicating with another human, that computer is, by definition, artificially intelligent. Garvey's interactive anticipates some of the ethical issues connected with the creation, use, and disposal of artificial intellects, disembodied or otherwise. B.W.

#### STEVE GILDEA

Steve Gildea, a painter and multimedia designer and artist, explores extraterrestrial space in his works. Gildea creates these prints by using personal computer software to wrap scanned images of human skin onto three-dimensional digital models of lunar topography. He prints the resulting montages with an inly jet printer.

Gildea's reconstituted celestial bodies, as well as the impossible perspectives from which the scenes are viewed, project human identities and desires onto the cosmos. Though smaller in scale—but, curiously, similar in size to the affordable prints with which these paintings were originally popularized—his *South Ray Crater with Skin* series harkens back to the expansive works of Albert Bierstadt and Fredric E. Church, 19th-century European and North American painters who created immense landscapes of South and Central America and the American West. B.W.

#### STEPHEN GOLDING

In the series A View from the Back of the Bus, Stephen Golding explores the psychological toll of racism in America. His images of slavery, lynchings, discrimination, and racist misperceptions trace a rough history of the experience of African-Americans in this country. This history is not presented in traditional documentary style, but in an expressionist format that stresses the visceral, emotional qualities of 500 years of terror. According to the artist, he is "intrigued by the irony of a world steeped in religious belief but lacking in spiritual substance. Primarily, this seems to manifest itself in the depths of human hatred."

Golding creates his seamless collaged images and distorted Boschian figures with an involved multimedia process. After planning a rough design, he scans black-and-white photographs into computer software where he selects, arranges, and manipulates each picture. The images are then output as photographic negatives, which are then processed as black-andwhite photographic prints. Onto these prints Golding applies color with oil paint, pencil, airbrush, and other media, and then scans the image back into the computer for further manipulation. Finally, the pictures are output as color transparencies and printed on Cibachrome material. N.C.

#### DENA GWIN

Dena Gwin's video *IDONTWANTTO* is based on the following text:

#### IDONTWANTTOEATCATFOOD IDONTWANTTOGOTOPRISON IDONTWANTTOGETCANCER

This string of phrases scrolls continuously across the screen at a very rapid rate, while a distorted, slowed-down voice repeatedly intones the same words. The non-stop loop of these messages, combined with the contrasting visual and audio rates of presentation, is both deeply disturbing and profoundly irritating. *IDONTWANTTO* is a technologically delivered mantra of fear, paranoia, and obsession. Gwin taps into a leitmotif, a constant mental buzz, that plagues many members of urban American society.

Gwin designed the appearance of the text and the scrolling effect with computer animation software. The vocal portion is her own voice, considerably slowed with an editing machine. N.C.

## THOMAS E. JANZEN

Dilettante is the disarmingly honest tale of Thomas E. Janzen's life in the contemporary art world. The video, a straightforward narrative autobiography, chronicles the artist's involvement with avant-garde music, performance art, computer art, and video. Janzen tells his tale of the struggles and frustrations of the artist's life with a wit aimed both at himself and the marginalized world he inhabits.

Computer technology played many different roles in the creation of *Dilettante*. The imagery consists of scanned photographs and drawings, as well as drawings and three-dimensional renderings produced with software. Janzen also used computers to compose the music and design the titles for the video. He is also quick to point out that the script was written with word-processing software. N.C.

#### **DOUGLAS KORNFELD**

With the help of a computer, Douglas Kornfeld has created twenty-four distinct body types—ranging from tall and thin to short and portly—from internationally recognized male and female symbols. These mutated symbols allow the artist to address a wide range of issues surrounding body perception and individual identity in a variety of formats. In his shimmering mosaic installation, 101, 24,000 bodies coalesce into singular, unified images, and stimulate thinking about the particular vs. the universal, the individual vs. the group, and the real vs. the ideal.

In contrast to the religious aura of the mosaics, the interactive computer installation Who are You? is linked to the worlds of technology and popular culture. An amusing, animated music video featuring interactions between the twenty-four body types introduces a large menu of shorter videos keyed to each body type. Viewers choose one or more of Kornfeld's body symbols to play short documentary clips in which real people discuss their personal body images. Viewers become active participants in the artwork as they are offered the option to record, via text, their own body image perceptions. This group portrait reveals the individuals behind the symbols, and offers a glimpse of the myriad personal concerns surrounding an American cultural obsession. N.C.

#### **DOROTHY SIMPSON KRAUSE**

Dorothy Simpson Krause, a self-described "painter at heart," chose to use an ink jet printer to print her digital collages directly on canvas. This canvas ground gives the work a material richness, provides a sturdy support for surface additions of small objects, gold leaf, and metallic powders, and links the new computer-assisted art form to the 500-year-old art historical tradition of painting on canvas.

Krause also uses the computer to create her collages. Images and objects are scanned into programs where they can be arranged, altered in terms of color and scale, and seamlessly blended. In this body of work, the artist combines images of women from many cultures with related books. The images and title pages resonate to provide catalysts for the contemplation of ethical, historical, and political issues related to the history of women, methods of cultural representation, and abuses of power. N.C.

#### TOM KREPCIO

Tom Krepcio, a filmmaker, animator, and stained glass artist, uses personal computers, software, and peripherals in two ways when making his stained glass: as a desktop publishing tool—for scanning, altering, combining, pasting up, and color-separating—and as a platform for artificial life programs, which he uses to generate some of the elaborate borders and patterns that appear in his work.

Krepcio's works draw on the parallels between medieval pilgrimages to churches featuring stained glass, the hot medium of the day, and on tourism, an overpowering agent of cultural interchange. Despite the subject matter of works such as *Red Angel*, Krepcio does not think of his works as religious. However, he does acknowledge that the drawing powers of stained glass, and, more generally, light itself, are matters of spirituality and metaphysics. B.W.

#### FRANK LADD

The starting point of each of Frank Ladd's works—and the source of the title of each work—is a book that, through its influence or as an emblem, embodies an assumption of modern Western thought. Using a computer with a scanner and graphics software, Ladd combines the covers of books such as *The Common Sense of Science* or *How to be a Transformed Person* with photographic and graphic images appropriated from the same optimistic, confident history as the books themselves.

The resulting montages are printed onto large rolls of paper that, with their laconic surfaces and graphic monumentality, resemble billboards; the size of the work parallels the absolute confidence of Ladd's collaged ideas. He states, "Like 20th century philosophy itself, my work is more a commentary on, rather than an explanation of. From start to finish, the art is untouched by human hands, but [it is] touched throughout by the varied intentions of human thinking." B.W.

#### SUSAN LEVAN

Drawing her works directly on the personal computer with a digitizing tablet and stylus, Susan LeVan creates what appear at first glance to be simple everyday scenes. But her studied use of hot colors and distorted figures sets up an unsettling tension between the intimate nature of subjects such as *man in bluegreen shirt*. She believes that the immediacy and flexibility of the medium have enabled her to re-connect—after a decade of making art about nature and the animal world—with some of her own earliest and most deeply felt influences and feelings.

Like a *New Yorker* magazine "frozen moment" cartoon, LeVan's diminutive pictures imply an entire universe behind the depicted moment. Like Van Gogh, LeVan often invokes the charm—in the richly magical sense of the word—of the moment when one life connects with another. B.W.

#### RENÉE LEWINTER

The searing colors, swirling forms, and odd deformations of space in Renée LeWinter's landscapes describe an imaginary universe where states of solid, liquid, and gas are by no means fixed. This beautiful world of violent evolutionary forces, where the organic collides with the crystalline, is a product of the artist's interests in planetary exploration, remote sensing, and science fiction. LeWinter invites viewers to participate imaginatively in places where known physical laws are confused, where a physical human presence would be unthinkable.

The artist builds this world by scanning an unusual set of objects-glass marbles, fish eyes, reptile skins-into various computer programs where the images are colored, composed, and distorted. The finished images are then output with an ink jet printer to canvas. The canvas and the rich saturated colors give these works a feeling of having been hand painted. LeWinter's acknowledgment and aesthetic use of pixels (the primary color information units in the computer that appear in passages of the prints as small squares), however, stresses her use of computer technology and also links the images to the look of data transmitted via satellite. N.C.

#### ROBIN MARLOWE

Robin Marlowe's video *Paris Tarot* is a multi-layered narrative of a brief human encounter in Paris that has parallels to a well-crafted short story. The brief tale is told with a multi-layered and sequenced combination of text, images, and music. The text, partly by Marlowe and partly by the Sufi poet Rumi, accompanies images of human figures, mannikins, tarot cards, and Parisian buildings and places, to the tune of composer Erik Satie's *Quatrieme Gnossienne*.

Marlowe achieved the linear video collage quality of *Paris Tarot* by composing and manipulating disparate visual materials—raw video footage, still photographs, and text graphics—with compositing and special effects software. Satie's musical passage was arranged and performed by Chris Florio. N.C.

#### GREG O'BRIEN

Greg O'Brien captures visual incidents in the real world that carry compelling abstract imagery. While traveling through cities, the artist isolates portions of walls, graffiti, and outdoor paintings, not to provide documents of these phenomena, but to reveal their visual energies and their potential for eliciting complex, ambiguous emotional response.

O'Brien photographs the abstract subjects and makes Cibachrome prints, which are then scanned into computer programs. In the computer, with techniques more versatile than those available in conventional photographic darkrooms, he subtly manipulates the colors and compositions of the images. The computer is, in effect, used as a visual editing tool. The artist then outputs the work with an electrostatic plotter originally developed for architectural drawings. This plotter allows for the large dimensions of the final prints. N.C.

#### **HUGH O'DONNELL**

Hugh O'Donnell, a painter, was attracted to computer technology because of the opportunities it provides for spontaneity and immediacy. Using software, he "draws" and "paints" with a stylus and drawing tablet that allows images to appear directly on the computer screen. Owing to the speed at which he works, the images appear in very low resolution, revealing the pixels—the computer's informational building blocks—which make up each image. Rather than decrying the lack of resolution, O'Donnell works with it, using the pixels to blur edges and create illusions of motions.

For The Computer in the Studio, O'Donnell created *Cascade*, an abstract, gestural, computer-assisted image output as a set of ink jet prints. The prints are pieced together to form an artwork ten feet tall and thirty-five feet wide. This computer print, on the scale of the grandest of oil paintings or tapestries, lines the wall of a semi circular gallery. Viewers standing in the center of the gallery become entirely immersed in O'Donnell's visual environment. The artwork takes up 180 degrees of visual perception, leaving no space in peripheral vision for other competing visual data. N.C.

#### DEBORAH KLOTZ PARIS

For Deborah Klotz Paris, the computer is a tool in an alchemical process in which the artist seeks to elevate the base and lowly to a sacred, spiritual level. Klotz Paris makes photographs of fungus, an elementary life form, and scans them into computer programs where the images are manipulated and greatly enlarged. She then outputs the images to a series of paper sheets with a computer printer. The ink on the sheets is then transferred to wooden objects that recall spineboards, tools of rescue used by lifeguards and emergency workers. Once the fungus images are transferred, Klotz Paris overpaints the images and waxes the surfaces to create rich, radiant organic forms that retain their fungal roots while also suggesting macrocosmic energies. Base matter is suffused with spiritual light, and a metaphorical alchemical process is complete. The spineboards, resting on the floor and leaning against the wall, suggest the potential for rescue from impending catastrophe. Bearing their glowing images of transcendence, they imply the unities of body and soul, matter and spirit, needed for heightened awareness.

The Fungus on Spineboard works have been excerpted from Klotz Paris's larger multimedia installation, SUB/MERGE, in which the themes of transcendence and rescue are further elaborated. N.C.

#### OLIVIA PARKER

For many years, photographer Olivia Parker constructed her subject matter in her studio by setting up and photographing vignettes or still lifes composed of images and objects, light and shadow. In some recent bodies of work, Parker has turned to constructing her subjects in cyberspace. She scans objects and her own photographs into computer programs where she can compose images without the restrictions that the physical world imposes on matter. In the computer, size, scale, light, and color are infinitely manipulable, and the laws of gravity need not apply. After the creative work is done on the computer screen, the artist outputs her images as ink jet prints on paper.

In the Toys and Games series, Parker combines animals, toys, and playing pieces to create games somehow gone awry. According to the artist: "Games are a manifestation of mental models or metaphors of life situations. My fictional games have an obvious relationship to the structures of a real game, but usually something has gone wrong...the mental guidelines of the way things are meant to be break down, and the games get as messy as life. Sometimes toys become more real than they are supposed to and emotions waver between fiction and nonfiction. Occasionally my toys may seem bizarre, but when compared to what is available in real toy stores for real children, they are not very strange at all." N.C.

#### ANGELA PERKINS

In the *Interiors* series, Angela Perkins explores the inner dimensions of fruits and vegetables. She lays open these commonplace foods, accentuates their softness and sweetness, and imbues them with light. In this way she stresses the many cultural functions of fruits and vegetables: as food, as symbols of sexuality, growth, and regeneration, and as objects of beauty. The illuminated interiors also suggest a spiritual presence, and act as metaphors for human emotions and enlightenment. Perkins seeks to reveal the presence of the sacred in the mundane.

To create these images, Perkins scans directly from ripe fruit and fresh vegetables. Using computer software, she manipulates the images extensively (despite their simple appearance) and outputs them as ink jet prints on paper. N.C.

#### RON RIZZI

Ron Rizzi's large *Tibet Series* paintings bear witness to tragedy in the same way that Samuel Beckett's plays, in the playwright's words, acted as a "stain on the silence of the world" in the face of violence and cruelty.

Rizzi begins with news media and art images from the history of the Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people, and, in particular, of the forced exile of the Dalai Lama and the destruction of over six thousand Tibetan monasteries. Rizzi repeatedly enlarges and distorts the images with a personal computer, graphics software, scanner, printer, and photocopier, and hangs the results on the studio walls. Then he paints, first on the prints themselves, and finally, using the painted prints as studies, on canvas.

Rizzi's mixture of seemingly distinct processes—the physical act of making a painting or forcing a half-finished print from a printer; the disembodied selection of video frames or software options—stresses the unpredictable consequences that can result from even the smallest decision to act, or not to act. B.W.

#### RICHARD ROSENBLUM

Richard Rosenblum, a prominent sculptor for many years, began using the personal computer three years ago to help him plan the enormous human-like sculptures he hews from tree trunks, roots, sculpted metal, and other materials. When he began working with scanned photographs of sections of his own sculptures, he realized that his computer gave him the control over his own images that would enable him to express his visions of imaginary landscapes.

He builds his images by reworking scanned National Geographic photographs into surreal, epic compositions that seem to come from some obscure corner of the history of art and yet contain unmistakably contemporary references to warfare. In Sarajevo, in particular, it seems that Goya and Manet have been transported to the late 20th century. Rosenblum's borrowings from yard-sale National Geographics—a magazine whose staff electronically "moved" one of the Great Pyramids to fit a magazine cover in the 1980s-also call into question the nature of originality: does the artist, or the computer, create new forms or rework existing themes? Is one of these models of artistic production superior to the other? B.W.

#### JOAN SHAFRAN

Joan Shafran's Sometimes Never Could is a portable poem on a laptop computer. Referred to by the artist as a "presentation poem," this piece works both with and against the software on which it was written. Shafran used a standard program developed for business presentations that allows for variable text, limited motion, and simple graphics that display data (such as bar graphs). Within this framework, the artist composed a poem about emotional rather than economic relationships. The software, developed for the display of quantities, is ironically twisted to chart such qualities as intimacy, dialogue, and love. Sometimes Never Could also acts as a metaphor for our attempts to somehow make sense of and give order to our deep feelings. N.C.

#### KARL SIMS

Karl Sims produced all the animation and wrote all the software for the creation of his video *Liquid Selves*. The sophisticated software allows images to dissolve and reassemble, take on various surfaces, and seamlessly change shape. The figures and faces in *Liquid Selves* are truly liquid as they shift from human to mask to pattern to landscape and back again.

Sims explains that "this piece depicts the upcoming struggle between the virtual and physical sides of ourselves. As technology brings us the age of virtual worlds, our existence as individuals becomes less and less dependent on our physical being. Our virtual identities become more powerful and flexible, but also unstable and difficult to define. Our consistent recognizable faces are left behind and all faces become masks." The music for *Liquid Selves* is by Peter Gabriel and John Paul Jones. N.C.

#### DEANNE SOKOLIN

The *Covering Series* is Deanne Sokolin's response to personal tragedy in the tradition of the Jewish mourning ritual of sitting Shiva. The haunting wrapped forms imply the presence as well as the absence of the body. They evoke the aspects of sitting Shiva that include the denial of vision through a veiling of the mourner's head and the wrapping of certain possessions of the dead and of the bereaved.

Sokolin uses a traditional camera with an attached component that encodes the light and passes the information on to a computer. She heightens the monumentality of the images by selectively surpressing details of the image with image-manipulation software, and then prints the final image with a dye sublimation printer. B.W.

#### ANNE MORGAN SPALTER

Anne Morgan Spalter likes to be seen in the context of the history of landscape painting and photography. Working in both black-and-white and color, she creates imaginary places that she refers to as "modern landscapes." These landscapes are highly technological, and deal with present-day transportation, particularly automobile and airplane travel. Not only do her pictures include roadways, airplanes, and symbols of technology—radio towers and smokestacks—they also are presented from the perspective of a viewer in transit, along highways, through car windows. The artist seeks to capture the essence of a truly contemporary American landscape in imaginative and emotional terms.

Spalter sees computer technology as a particularly appropriate tool for the creation of her technological visions. She scans her own photographs into computer software, arranges the compositions and in some cases adds color, and then outputs them as ink jet prints on paper. N.C.

## JED SPEARE

Jed Speare uses a personal computer and multimedia software to combine his interests in visual and sound art. In *Piano Rolls*, he takes full advantage of the multimedia program's power and versatility to incorporate video images of antique player piano rolls into what he terms "desultory scrolls" that contrast the rolling figure with a text that flows in contrary motion. Adding to the player piano motif, Speare "steps" the computer through the piece with a pulsing motion that implies the motion and rhythm of a pair of feet pumping a player piano. B.W.

#### DANIEL SPIKOL AND HAZEN REED

Daniel Spikol and Hazen Reed's computer interactive *Dream Wheel* installation operates simultaneously in real space, cyberspace, and the mental space of its viewer/participants. Within a museum gallery transformed by lights and sculp-

tural elements, a computer stores and records dreams. By following simple instructions, viewers can access hundreds of short videos in which real people describe the content of a particular personal dream. Viewers may then record, on video, the stories of their own dreams, which are instantly stored in a computer program and made available for viewing by the next participant.

According to the artists, "A dream is an imaginative expression. Sharing one's dreams might be seen as a democratic form of personal expression. A wheel can be a representation of the spokes of a community. *Dream Wheel* is a synthesis of personal nocturnal imaginings with the circular nature of communication." Spikol and Reed attempt to collect, and to communicate, the contents of the collective unconscious. N.C.

#### GREG A. STEPHENS AND SERGIO F. GUERRA

Computer animation and an electronic soundtrack composed by the artist are the basic technical elements of Greg A. Stephens's video *Death is the Seed*. Using images of demons, angels, saints, and martyrs from the history of Western art, as well as other macabre images, Stephens creates shifting visual patterns. Symbols of death come alive, as it were, in a pulsating fabric of mortality. The sampled vocal line "When I become death, death is the seed from which I grow," ironic in its sinister delivery, is spoken by poet William S. Burroughs.

In Stephens's video collaboration with Sergio F. Guerra, *Fragments of a Vicarious Childhood*, animations, computer-processed video footage, and Super-8 film combine in a collage of memory. Fleeting layers of dancing pictographs, landscape imagery, and nostalgia-tinged "home movies" blur together in an exploration of time's effects on remembered and imagined events. N.C.

#### MICHELE TURRE

Michele Turre exploits the computer's potential for creating convincing fictions of time, space, and scale. In Me, My Girl, and My Mom at Three, for example, the artist scanned photographs of herself, her daughter, and her mother-all taken at age three-into the computer. Her software allowed her to equalize the scale of the figures and set them in the same space so that they all seem to exist at the same time. This timeless anachronism is emotionally and conceptually jarring, and also calls into serious question photography's assumed role as an objective record of visual information. Using similar strategies, the artist also explores gender roles, identity, and the cultural implications of art history—all within the framework of family issues.

Turre uses a variety of computer printing methods to output her collages onto different materials. N.C.

## JANET ZWEIG

Janet Zweig incorporates personal computers, desktop publishing software, and printers into kinetic sculptures that borrow as much from Rube Goldberg as from Archimedes. In her works, which are simultaneously mechanical and theatrical, she arranges printers to print randomized versions of appropriated texts. The printer feed themselves and, in some cases, one another with the same sheet of paper, recycling the medium and the information at the same time. In Making Progress, a belt of printer paper drives a wooden wheel. The Liar Paradox (Oliver North Mobius) joins two printers with a long band of paper upon which is printed the transcript from North's testimony.

Zweig believes that our increasingly digital society makes excessive demands on the physical world. She also holds that we place too much authority in the printed word. In her pieces, the circular paths of paper and information question whether progress in the information age is, in fact, linear. B.W.

## The Computer in the Studio

Checklist of works at The Computer Museum and the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

All works lent by the artist unless otherwise noted. All dimensions in inches unless otherwise noted; height precedes width precedes depth.

#### RICHARD BENSON

New Orleans, 1992 acrylic on aluminum, 22 x 25 3/4 (framed)

Ohio, 1992 acrylic on aluminum, 19 1/2 x 15 (framed)

Providence, Rhode Island, 1992 acrylic on aluminum, 22 x 25 3/4 (framed)

# BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY VIRTUAL REALITY GROUP

North Water World, 1994 interactive digital installation, dimensions variable

#### DAVID BRODY

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Gallery NAGA, Boston, MA

#### **EMILY CHENG**

Untitled (EC0006 from the Bodhissatva Series), 1993 monoprint, 20 x 17 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press

Untitled (EC0012 from the Bodhissatva Series), 1993 monoprint, 30 x 20 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press

Untitled (EC0017 from the Bodhissatva Series), 1993 monoprint, 22 x 15 1/2 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press

Untitled (EC0029 from the Bodhissatva Series), 1993 monoprint, 16 x 22 Courtesy of Permanent Press, NY Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press

#### CATHY CONE

Bone Series #2, 1994 Iris print, watercolor, 44 x 30 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press, East Topsham, VT

Bone Series #4, 1994 Iris print, watercolor, oil, 44 x 30 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press, East Topsham, VT

Bone Series #5, 1994 Iris print, pastel, watercolor, 44 x 30 Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press, East Topsham, VT

### SHARON DANIEL

Narrative Contingencies, 1993-1994 video, running time: 9:20

#### GREGORY GARVEY

The Automatic Confession Machine, 1993 interactive digital installation,  $60 \times 30 \times 24$ 

#### STEVE GILDEA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Above, 1994 ink jet print, 7 x 9 Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Inside #1, 1994

ink jet print,  $7 \times 9$ Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Inside #2, 1994 ink jet print, 7 x 9

Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Rim #1, 1994 ink jet print, 7 x 9

Ink jet print, 7 x 9
Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc.,
Philadelphia, PA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Rim #2, 1994 ink jet print, 7 x 9 Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

#### STEPHEN GOLDING

A View from the Back of the Bus, 1992 10 Cibachromes, all 20 x 24 (22 x 28 framed)

### DENA GWIN

IDONTWANTTO, 1994 video, running time: 2:00

#### THOMAS E. JANZEN

Dilettante, 1994 video, running time: 6:30

## Douglas Kornfeld

101, 1992-1994 24,000 hand-made mosaic pieces, 3 components: 96 x 48, 96 x 48, 96 x 96

Sentinel, 1992 digital image, ink on vellum, 80 x 36

Who are You?, 1994 interactive digital installation, dimensions variable

#### DOROTHY SIMPSON KRAUSE

Biography, 1994 digital collage, ink jet print on canvas with mixed media, 30 x 40 Courtesy of Mary Lou Bock, The Williams Gallery, Princeton, NJ

Indian Anecdotes, 1994 digital collage, ink jet print on canvas with mixed media, 28 x 42 Courtesy of Mary Lou Bock, The Williams Gallery, Princeton, NJ

Wonderland, 1994 digital collage, ink jet print on canvas with mixed media, 30 x 36 Courtesy of Mary Lou Bock, The Williams Gallery, Princeton, NJ

#### TOM KREPCIO

Drawn Face, 1994 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2

Pink Angel, 1993 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2

Red Angel, 1993 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2

The Speaker, 1993 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2

Tourist, 1992-1993 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2 Courtesy of Sip Siperstein

#### FRANK LADD

The Age of Reason + The Age of Ideology, 1993 electrostatic print,  $39 \times 62$ 

An Autobiographical Study of Sigmund Freud, 1994 electrostatic print, 43 x 53 (framed)

The Common Sense of Science, 1994 electrostatic print, 47 x 53 (framed)

How to be a Transformed Person, 1993 electrostatic print, 42 x 58

The Last Days of Socrates, 1994 electrostatic print, 25 x 28 (framed)

Love in the Western World, 1994 electrostatic print, 23 x 31 (framed)

An Outline of Abnormal Psychology Vol. 1, 1993 electrostatic print, 39 x 78

An Outline of Abnormal Psychology Vol. 2, 1993 electrostatic print, 39 x 78

The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis, 1993 electrostatic print, 39 x 60

#### SUSAN LEVAN, LEVAN/BARBEE STUDIO

Because I say so, 1994 dye sublimation print, 3 x 4

The Dinner Hour, 1994 dye sublimation print, 5 3/4 x 5 1/4

dream room, 1994 dye sublimation print, 4 1/4 x 5

He walks the dog, 1994 dye sublimation print, 4 x 3 1/4

man in bluegreen shirt, 1994 dye sublimation print, 3 x 3 1/2

nerd, 1994 dye sublimation print, 3  $3/4 \times 3 1/2$ 

Night Hare, 1994 dye sublimation print, 4 1/2 x 5 Poem text from "Dreams," in Dream Work by Mary Oliver

TAXI, 1994 dye sublimation print, 4 1/2 x 6

## RENÉE LEWINTER

Pages from the Primordial Soup: Pond, 1992 ink jet on canvas, 28 x 42

Pages from the Primordial Soup: Segments, 1993 ink jet on canvas, 28 x 42

Pages from the Primordial Soup: Terrata One, 1992 ink jet on canvas, 28 x 42

Pages from the Primordial Soup: Terrata Three, 1992 ink jet on canvas, 28 x 39

#### ROBIN MARLOWE

Paris Tarot, 1994 video, running time: 2:45

#### GREG O'BRIEN

Jamaica Plain #16, 1993 Cactus print, 48 x 48

Jamaica Plain #17, 1993 Cactus print, 48 x 48

Jamaica Plain #20, 1994 Cactus print, 48 x 48

London, 1993 Cactus print, 48 x 48

South End #3, 1994 Cactus print, 40 x 40

#### HUGH O'DONNELL

Cascade, 1994 tiled Iris print, 10 x 30 feet Iris prints courtesy of Cone Editions Press, East Topsham, VT

#### DEBORAH KLOTZ PARIS

Fungus on Spineboard #1, 1993 computer print, wood, wax, oil, 3 panels, each 80 x 20

Fungus on Spineboard #2, 1993 computer print, wood, wax, oil, 3 panels, each 80 x 20

Fungus on Spineboard #3, 1993 computer print, wood, wax, oil, 3 panels, each 80 x 20

Fungus on Spineboard #4, 1993 computer print, wood, wax, oil. 3 panels, each 80 x 20

#### OLIVIA PARKER

Action Toy, 1994 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 30 x 22 1/2 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

A Book of Broken Rules, 1994 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 19 1/2 x 27 3/8 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY Chicken Roulette, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 24 x 20 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

A History of Barbie, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 26 x 20 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Horseplay, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 24 x 20 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Missing Piece - Anhinga, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 30 x 22 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Missing Piece - Ibis, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 15 x 13 1/2 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Mr. Johnston's Pull Toy, 1994 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 26 x 20 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Path, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 30 x 24 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

Roots and Tubers, 1994 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 20 1/8 x 16 Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, Boston, MA, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens, New York, NY

#### ANGELA PERKINS

cantaloupe, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18

jalapeno, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18

pea pod, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18

red pepper, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18

strawberry, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18

#### RON RIZZI

The Buddha's Tooth, 1993 oil on panel, 46 x 96

The Interrogation, 1993 oil on panel, 48 x 72

*Tibet,* 1993 oil on panel, 72 x 96

#### RICHARD ROSENBLUM

Black Ryder, 1994 ink jet print, 53 x 74

River Crab, 1993 ink jet print, 34 x 51 Courtesy of the Danforth Museum of Art

Sarajevo, 1994 ink jet print, 74 x 53

## JOAN SHAFRAN

Sometimes Never Could, 1994 presentation poem, 50 x 16 x 16

#### KARL SIMS

Liquid Selves, 1992 video, running time: 2:15

#### DEANNE SOKOLIN

Enrobed Heads and Bodies, numbers 1-9 from The Covering Series, 1993-1994 dye sublimation prints, each print 11 x 11

Gold Grid, numbers 1-4 from The Covering Series, 1994 dye sublimation prints, each print 11 x 11

#### ANNE MORGAN SPALTER

Beacon, 1992 digital image, 43 x 43 (framed)

Buildings by the Runway, 1994 digital image, 33 x 43 (framed)

Leaving, 1994 digital image, 33 x 43 (framed)

Smokestack Spirits, 1993 digital image, 43 x 33 (framed)

#### JED SPEARE

Piano Rolls, 1994 animation, running time: 1:30

#### DANIEL SPIKOL AND HAZEN REED

Dream Wheel, 1994 interactive digital installation, dimensions variable

#### GREG A. STEPHENS

Death is the Seed, 1992 video, running time: 3:00

# Greg A. Stephens and Sergio F. Guerra

Fragments of a Vicarious Childhood, 1993 video, running time: 7:10

#### MICHELLE TURRE

Full House, 1992-1993 ink jet print on paper, 39 x 26

Me, My Girl, and My Mom at Three, 1993 Imagesetter output to silverprint, 20 x 25

My Niece in Her Grandmother's Costumes with My Dolls, 1994 ink jet print on Translite, 13 x 47

Rosie's House, 1994 ink jet print on paper, 40 x 29 1/2

The Spanish Dance, 1993 ink jet print on paper, 9 1/2 x 43

## JANET ZWEIG

The Liar Paradox (Oliver North Mobius), 1991 kinetic sculpture, 6 x 18 x 2 feet

Making Progress, 1992 kinetic sculpture, 50 x 18 x 26

Splitting the Vicious Circle, 1994 Sculpture, 2 x 6 x 3 feet

Thanks a Million, 1993 sculpture, 4 x 6 x 3 feet



# BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY VIRTUAL REALITY GROUP

North Water World (detail), 1994 interactive digital installation



## DAVID BRODY

Untitled, 1989 computer drawing, 11 x 8 1/2 inches Courtesy of Gallery NAGA



**EMILY CHENG** 

Untitled (EC0029 from the Bodhissatva Series), 1993 monoprint, 16 x 22 inches Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press



## CATHY CONE

Bone Series #2, 1994 Iris print, watercolor, 44 x 30 inches Iris print courtesy of Cone Editions Press



SHARON DANIEL

Narrative Contingencies (video still), 1993-1994 video



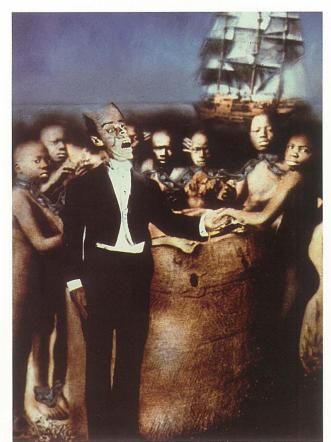
## GREGORY GARVEY

The Automatic Confession Machine, 1993 interactive digital installation



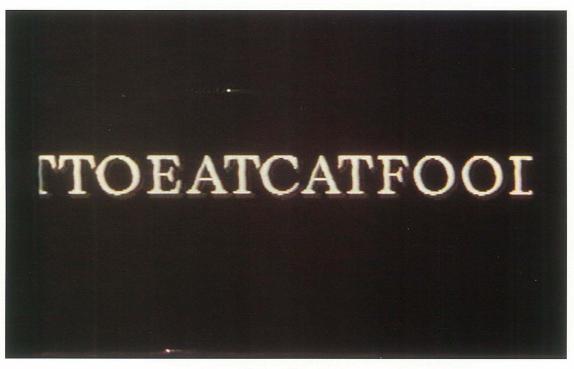
STEVE GILDEA

South Ray Crater with Skin, View from Rim #1, 1991 ink jet print, 7 x 9 inches Iris print courtesy of Today's Graphics, Inc.



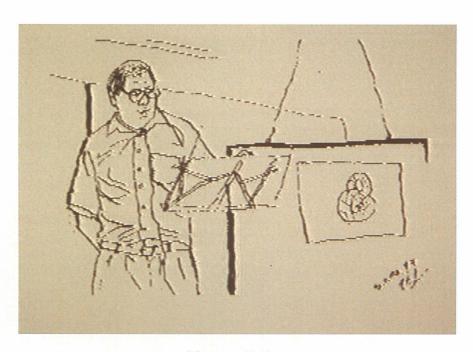
## STEPHEN GOLDING

from A View from the Back of the Bus, 1992 Cibachrome, 20 x 24 inches



DENA GWIN

IDONTWANTTO (video still), 1994 video



THOMAS E. JANZEN

Dilettante (video still), 1994 video

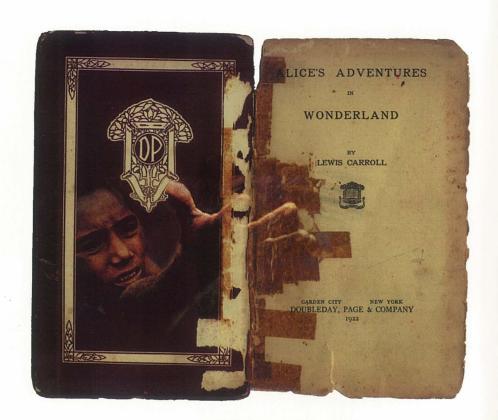


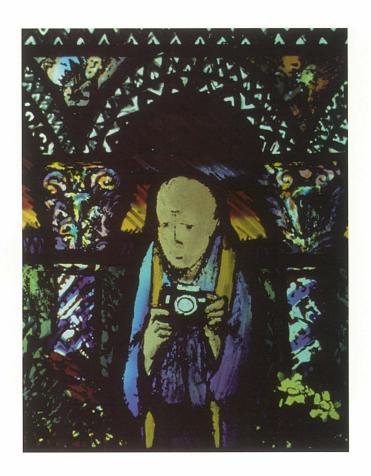
## Douglas Kornfeld

101 (detail), 1992-1994 mosaic, 96 x 192 inches

## DOROTHY SIMPSON KRAUSE

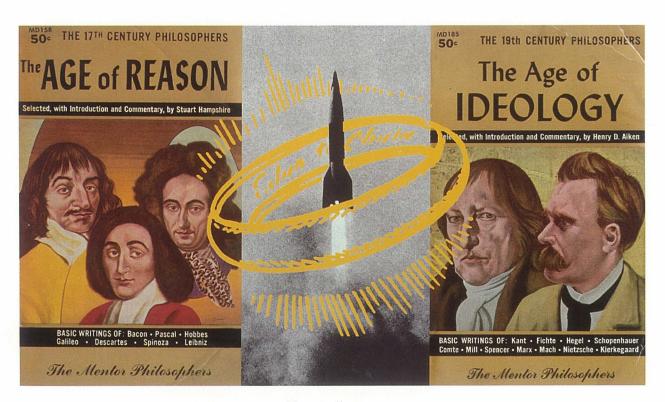
Wonderland, 1994
digital collage, ink jet print on canvas
with mixed media, 30 x 36 inches
Courtesy of Mary Lou Bock, The Williams Gallery





## TOM KREPCIO

Tourist, 1992-1993 stained glass, 9 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches Courtesy of Sip Siperstein

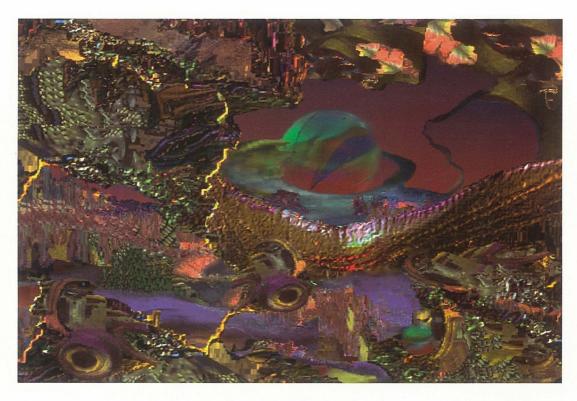


FRANK LADD



## Susan LeVan LeVan/Barbee studio

man in bluegreen shirt, 1994 dye sublimation print, 3 1/2 x 3 inches



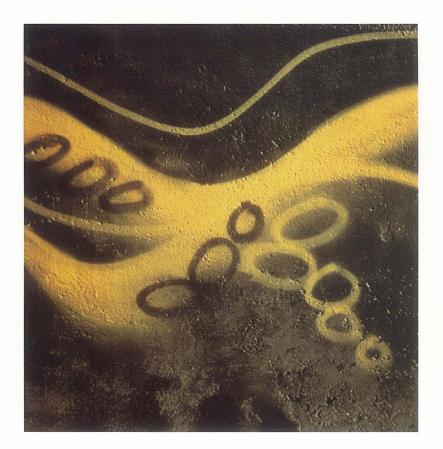
RENÉE LEWINTER

Pages from the Primordial Soup: Segments, 1993 ink jet on canvas, 28 x 42 inches



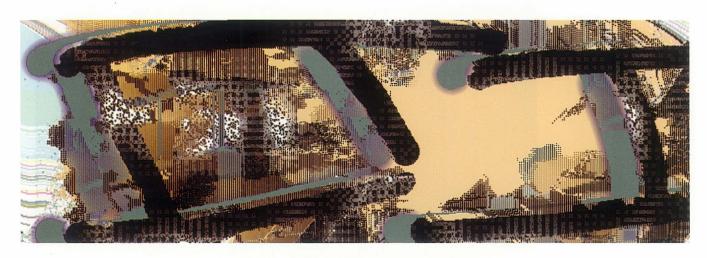
ROBIN MARLOWE

Paris Tarot (video still), 1994 video



## GREG O'BRIEN

Jamaica Plain #16, 1993 Cactus print, 48 x 48 inches



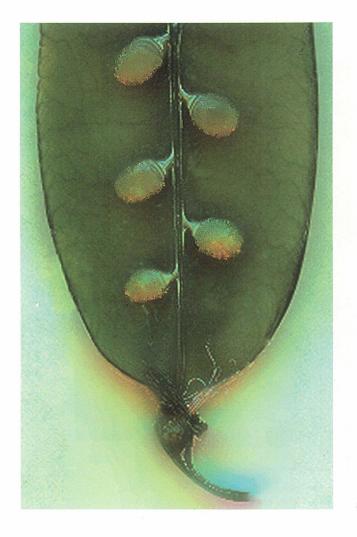
HUGH O'DONNELL

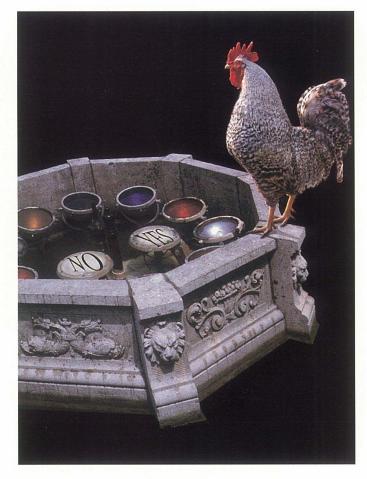
Cascade, 1994 tiled Iris print, 10 x 30 feet Iris prints courtesy of Cone Editions Press



## DEBORAH KLOTZ PARIS

Fungus on Spineboard #2, 1993 computer print, wood, wax, oil 3 panels, each 80 x 20 inches





## OLIVIA PARKER

Chicken Roulette, 1993 digital image, Nash ink jet print, 24 x 20 inches Courtesy of Robert Klein Gallery, and Brent Sikkema - Wooster Gardens

## ANGELA PERKINS

pea pod, 1993 electronic imaging on paper, 24 x 18 inches



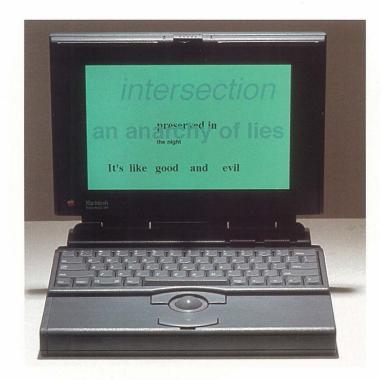
RON RIZZI

The Buddha's Tooth, 1993 oil on panel, 46 x 96 inches



RICHARD ROSENBLUM

Black Ryder, 1994 ink jet print, 53 x 74 inches



Joan Shafran

Sometimes Never Could (detail), 1994 presentation poem, 50 x 16 x 16 inches



KARL SIMS

Liquid Selves (video still), 1992 video



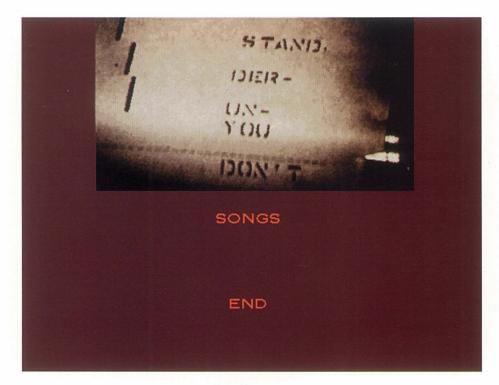
DEANNE SOKOLIN

Enrobed Heads and Bodies, from the Covering Series, 1993-1994 9 dye sublimation prints, each 11 x 11 inches



Buildings by the Runway, 1994 digital image, 33 x 43 inches (framed)





JED SPEARE

Piano Rolls (animation still), 1994 animation



DANIEL SPIKOL AND HAZEN REED

Dream Wheel (detail), 1994 interactive digital installation



GREG A. STEPHENS

Death is the Seed (video still), 1992 video



GREG A. STEPHENS AND SERGIO F. GUERRA

Fragments of a Vicarious Childhood (video still), 1993 video



MICHELE TURRE

Me, My Girl, and My Mom at Three, 1993 Imagesetter output to silverprint, 13 x 16 inches



JANET ZWEIG

The Liar Paradox (Oliver North Mobius), 1991 kinetic sculpture, 6 x 18 x 2 feet



## Opening Reception: Friday, September 23, 1994

The Director and the Board of Trustees of the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park cordially invite you to the opening reception for

## The Computer in the Studio

in collaboration with The Computer Museum in Boston

September 23

6:00 - 8:00 p.m

#### **Programs**

October 2 Meet the Artists: **Angela Perkins** and **Stephen Golding**, 3:00 p.m.

October 16

DeCordova Museum School Grand Opening Celebration,

1:00 p.m -4:00 p.m.

Curators' Perspective: Nick Capasso and Brian Wallace, *The Computer and Contemporary Art*, 3:00 p.m.

October 23

Meet the Artist: Renée LeWinter and Sharon Daniel, 3:00 p.m.

November 13

Meet the Artist: **Douglas Kornfield** and **Anne Morgan Spalter**, 3:00 p.m.

Artist talks will be held at The Computer Museum in Boston on the following Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.: Sept. 24: Oct. 1. 13. 22. 30: Nov. 12

## The Computer in the Studio

#### At DeCordova Museum

Dorothy Simpson Krause

Frank Ladd

Renée LeWinter

Richard Benson Rohin Marlowe The Boston Computer Society Greg O'Brien Virtual Reality Group Hugh O'Donnell Deborah Klotz Paris David Brody Cathy Cone Olivia Parker Angela Perkins Sharon Daniel Stephen Golding Hazen Reed Sergio Guerra Joan Shafran Karl Sims Dena Gwin Jennifer Hall Anne Morgan Spalter Thomas F. Janzen Daniel Spikol Douglas Kornfeld Greg A. Stephens

Richard Rosenblum Deanne Sokolin Jed Speare Janet Zweig

**Emily Chena** 

Greg Garvey

Steve Gildea

Tom Krepcio

Frank Ladd

Ron Rizzi

Susan LeVan

At The Computer Museum

This collaboration between the DeCordova Museum and The Computer Museum in Boston examines the growing use of computers by regional artists.

Michele Turre

Janet Zweig

Computer-assisted art is not new, but today artists have greater access to powerful digital tools that were too expensive or too complex just a few years ago. Computers will eventually transform the face of contemporary art forever, just as past technologies dramatically affected the creation of art in previous eras.

The Computer in the Studio was organized by DeCordova Associate Curator Nick Capasso and Computer Museum Media Arts Exhibit Developer Brian Wallace. George Fifield, curator of VideoSpace at DeCordova, participated in the selection of computer-assisted video art.

The Computer in the Studio will be shown at DeCordova and The Computer Museum from September 24 to November 27, 1994.

Cover: Studio of Douglas Kornfeld, Boston, MA Photo: Willard Traub

## DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

#### 51 Sandy Pond Road Lincoln, MA 01773-2600



From 495: Take Route 2 to Route 126 South. Take a left at Baker Bridge Road (immediately following Walden Pond) and follow the signs to DeCordova.

From 128: Take exit 28, Trapelo Road/ Lincoln. Take Trapelo Road to Sandy Pond Road and follow the signs to DeCordova.

**From Mass Pike:** Take 128 North and follow the directions above.

From 93: Take 128 South and follow directions above.

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit Number One Lincoln, MA 01773

You're invited to our opening...

## The Computer in the Studio overview\*

The Computer in the Studio, an exhibition of a new generation of computer-assisted art, is the first to explore the issue of increasing artist access to computer technology and the implications of this phenomenon for contemporary art. The exhibition is being organized by the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts (a Boston suburb), and The Computer Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, and will address audiences interested in both the arts and technology. The Computer in the Studio will be shown at both museums from September 23 through November 27, 1994. Included will be approximately 75 works by 15-20 artists from the New England region, representing the broad range of media impacted by available computer technology: painting, drawing, prints, photography, collage, sculpture, mosaic, installations, performance art, video animation, and multi-media pieces. The Computer in the Studio also addresses issues of artistic content raised by widespread use of recent developments in powerful new hardware and software. An 80-page illustrated catalogue will include three essays. Computer expert and technology writer Renee LeWinter will outline the technological developments that have fostered increased computer use by artists. Computer Museum Media Arts Exhibit Developer Brian Wallace will explore the content of new computer-assisted art, and DeCordova Museum Associate Curator Nicholas Capasso will discuss the works in the show. Educational programs include artist and docent/visitor assistant talks, school outreach at both museums, and a symposium on artist computer access at The Computer Museum.

The DeCordova Museum focuses on American art of the twentieth century, and particularly on contemporary art of the New England region. A primary goal of the museum's exhibition and educational programs is the exploration of important issues in contemporary art through thematic group exhibitions of this type. The Computer Museum's mission is to educate people of all backgrounds about the history, technology, and use of computers. The Computer in the Studio reaffirms the Computer Museum's commitment to examining the cultural implications of computer technology, especially to the arts and humanities. The institutional collaboration will strengthen each museum's educational and outreach abilities, and build audiences at both.

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The Computer in the Studio is the first exhibition to examine the widespread and rapidly growing impact of computer technology on contemporary artmaking. The strategic partnership between the DeCordova Museum and The Computer Museum reveals the wide range of current aesthetic applications

\*(text from NEA grant application)

of computer technology, and explores the vast potential of the computer as an instrument for the creation of art. Emphasis is placed not on the scientific wonders of the technology, but on the stunning diversity of uses to which artists are putting newly available tools. Fifteen to twenty New England artists will participate in **The Computer in the Studio**, and show work ranging from drawing, painting, photography, mosaics, and sculpture to digital collage, installations, performance and video art.

Artists today have unprecedented access to new and sophisticated computers, scanners, printers, digital cameras, animation programs, and sound and video equipment. The price of computer hardware has declined dramatically. Powerful machines once restricted to users in government, industry, and scientific academia are now available for rental or purchase by the general public — and artists. Once-byzantine software and programming systems have been made more user-friendly for a mass market, and new software is being developed continually for expressly artistic applications. Colleges, universities, and art schools, aware of the exciting potential of computers for artmaking, and responding to student demand, are setting up computer labs and art-and-technology centers for students of the fine arts. Artists are pooling their resources to set up cooperative computer technology ateliers.

The Computer in the Studio, and its catalogue and attendant educational programming, will examine the myriad implications of this revolutionary availability of technology. A new generation of computer-literate young artists accepts keyboards, mice, and laser printers as readily as paint, pencils, and plaster. Many early-career artists devote themselves entirely to explorations of new digital media. Moreover, a significant number of older, more established artists, previously unacquainted with or resistant to advance technologies, turn to computers to help them realize aesthetic goals once deemed unrealistic or "visionary." Some artists, like former painter Douglas Kornfeld and former sculptor Richard Rosenblum, have cast off their old media completely in favor of computer-assisted art.

The spectrum of artistic applications of computer technology grows with burgeoning access, increasing flexibility of the tools, and growing dialogue amongst artists. The Computer in the Studio will show how artists use the computer in concert with traditional media like painting, collage, drawing, and sculpture, and increasingly integrate computer technology with photography, installations, performance art, and animation. Computers are used as planning tools, as generators and manipulators of images, and as active elements to drive and coordinate sound and the motion and sequence of images and objects. Now emerging is the use of computers to usher in a new age of interactivity and virtual reality, transforming art viewers into active participants.

Access to hardware and software has also significantly advanced the content of computer-assisted art. For many years, computer art was seen as a benighted field, the domain of aesthetically uninspired

technologists and software marketing executives. Art produced by computer was self-consciously rooted in the technology, and made little reference to ideas and associations outside the technical realm. This reflexivity has been thrown over by artists now concerned with the computer as a device for expression, rather than as an interesting device per se. The Computer in the Studio addresses the pluralistic landscape of contemporary art, involving politics, race, gender, perception, appropriation, and sheer beauty. When artists examine computer technology, it is not in terms of the machine itself, but of the social and cultural implications of the machine and its ubiquity in American society.

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The Computer in the Studio is being organized by DeCordova Museum Associate Curator Nicholas Capasso and Computer Museum Media Arts Exhibit Developer Brian Wallace. Capasso has worked in the museum field since 1986, has organized several exhibitions of contemporary art, and is completing a doctoral degree in art history at Rutgers University. Wallace has been at the Computer Museum since 1989, has curated numerous exhibitions on art and technology, and has done graduate work in history and art history at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, the Masachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Massachusetts College of Art.

The artist and artwork selection process for The Computer in the Studio is still in process. The exhibition will contain approximately 75 works by 15-20 New England artists, and the great majority of work will be borrowed directly from the artists. A meaningful working checklist at this point would be premature. Enclosed, however, is an elaborated slide list. The submitted slides represent the range of media, technology, and imagery to be included in the exhibition. These artists are all under serious consideration for The Computer in the Studio.

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In addition to the catalogue and gallery didactic panels in both museums, several educational programs are planned for The Computer in the Studio. Artists will present gallery talks about their work at the DeCordova and Computer museums, and both institutions will offer public and special group tours of the exhibition, and outreach programs to schools. A full-day symposium on artist computer access will be held at The Computer Museum, featuring computer artist and critic Copper Giloth from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Jennifer Hall, Principal of Do-While Studio (a computer art atelier in Boston), and Lowrey Burgess, expert on art and technology from Carnegie Mellon University and the MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

An 80-page catalogue will feature three scholarly essays. The first, by computer expert and technology writer Renee LeWinter, will discuss the technological and industrial developments which have fostered the growing use of computers by artists. The second, by exhibition co-curator Brian Wallace, will explore the new content of computer-assisted art. The third, by exhibition co-curator Nicholas Capasso, will discuss the artists and works in the show. The catalogue will also contain color reproductions of work by each artist, and an extensive bibliography.

A number of other exhibition catalogues and articles have dealt with computer-assisted art, but they tend to be either dated in terms of artist use and technology, or they focus on particular aspects of computer-assisted art (e.g. interactive art, computer montage, computer graphics). The Computer in the Studio catalogue will be the first publication to discuss the growing breadth of artist access to computers and the implications for artistic media and content. The catalogue will address a general audience, and also more specialized and scholarly audiences interested in issues in contemporary art, and in technology in American culture. The catalogue will be distributed through over-the-counter sales at the DeCordova and Computer museums, and through DeCordova's extensive catalogue exchange program. Mail-order booksellers will be solicited for further distribution. Copyright will be held jointly by the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts, and The Computer Museum, Boston, Massachusetts.