

Media Arts Honours Proposal

Synopsis

By investigating the new compositional possibilities of new media arts and technology I plan to develop a number of moving-image and network based artworks. I wish to explore the integration of experimental video art with sound and music, whilst also exploring the new possibilities of network-based art. Specifically, I wish to focus on the interplay of different elements in the construction of an artwork. How do different elements of experimental video footage *relate* and *effect* one another; How do the waveforms and movement of sound or music effect the moving-image; How can the inter-connected world of the Internet be intertwined with the moving-image.

Overview

Experimental Digital Compositing

Technology and contemporary new media arts practice have opened up many new compositional possibilities for moving-imaging and network based artworks. The computer and digital compositing techniques have allowed for a new way of dealing with video artworks. Using Apple Shake, a digital compositing application, I have been experimenting with the concept of allowing different sources of visual elements to *relate* and *talk* to one another. Using a node-based compositing system I am able to create a computational



network that the elements use to *effect* each other. For example, what happens when the movement of fire effects the translucency of wind blowing through leaves, which then in turn is composited into waves rushing onto sand. I have experimented with numerous other sources of elements such as 3D animation, traditional paintings, and photography. I don't plan to create a specific visual composition, but rather approach the process in more of an abstract way. I wish for the different elements to construct their own intimate dialogue; their own unique artwork. See the stills throughout this document for examples of this process.

I have completed a number of video works based around this process and am exhibiting one of these video works at the Earthcore Global Carnival music festival in November 2005.

I plan to continue my investigation into this experimental composing process with a specific emphasis on the integration of sound and music. When I integrate sound into this visual relationship what will happen. Sound will not just be a background to the visuals, but will be a fully integrated element, effecting and morphing the image. For example, I could record the cacophony of industrialized sounds and see how they *effect* a composition of pure Natural beauty. I also wish to work with musicians with the concept of creating an integrated aural-visual artwork based around this process of experimental digital composition.



Network-based Artwork

My interest in layering and the interplay of different visual and aural elements also stretches into the world of network-based art. Although I am extremely interested in the abstract potential of the moving-image, I am also extremely passionate about political art. In the past I have created a number of political works and have had them shown at film festivals around Australia and the UK.

I wish to further my political art practice by incorporating some of the exciting new possibilities that network-based art offers. Google News (<http://news.google.com.au>) allows the searching and aggregation of news articles/stories from 4,500 different news sources around the world - all updated continuously. You can use the search engine to search for articles that contain a certain keyword. What interests and shocks me is the vast difference in results on different keywords. Searching on "Iraq" returns 174,000 articles, whilst a search on "poverty" returns only 25,100, and a search on "HIV" returns only 14,000 articles. This shows you that the world's media, and society in general only wants to focus on certain Western-centric issues. What is incredible about Google News is that it allows you to gauge and work with statistics and words from the **entire** World's media, all updating continuously.

Over the past six years I have been involved in the web development, programming and design industry. I plan to leverage these skills to develop a system of integrating Internet searches such as Google News or Google Blog Search into network-based artworks. I wish to integrate these networked sources of information into my digital compositional process. How will the statistics of the media's obsession with Iraq and terrorism effect an artwork; What will happen when the text of the articles is incorporated in the digital compositing pipeline.

I have a number of ideas for displaying and delivering these network-driven artworks that I wish to investigate.

- A continuous, constantly updating moving-image artwork that aggregates the World's media into itself and is displayed via projection or on a large flat-screen TV
- A dynamic, AI driven blog artwork that incorporates the media and existing blogs into both textual and visual works. Perhaps a vlog (videoblog) that autonomously constructs dynamic video works.
- An interactive work that allows the audience to dynamically construct/deform the work by selecting different search keywords/world issues.

Key Research Topics

The following is a list of topics that would form part of my research:

- Experimental film - current and past experimental film techniques and artists
- Network-art - netart, blogging, videoblogging, software art
- Sound/music composition - I am interested in how sound and music pieces are constructed. I think these compositional techniques could be used in moving-image composition.

Technical Requirements

I have all of my own required equipment.