

Very Nervous System Installation details and requirements

Technical requirements:

I generally supply video camera, image processor, synthesizer and software. This leaves to the exhibitor to supply:

1/Macintosh with hard-drive and 1 megabyte of memory (preferable Mac II or better, but the system will work with a Mac plus)

2/Stereo sound system (for most spaces, a 100 watt amplifier and suitable speakers will do fine.)

3/Appropriate lighting for the space. (The sensitivity of the system depends partly on the level of lighting. I usually use about 1000 watts of light for every 20 square metres of space, but ideal amounts of lighting depend partially on how high the lights are mounted in the space.

Space requirements:

An ideal space would be an approximately square room, 6 metres by 6 metres with ceiling of 4 metres, with walls on 3 sides. This kind of space allows people to watch others interacting with the system, while keeping people from walking through the space accidentally, interrupting someone else's experience of the piece. This kind of layout has worked very successfully at large exhibitions with heavy traffic flow, giving the person interacting a strong sense of interaction, but offering the rest of the public a view of this interaction.

Variations

I often exhibit variations of "Very Nervous System", involving additional elements, where the equipment and/or space is available. An example would be an installation entitled "(Perception is) The Master of Space". I set up "Very Nervous System" as usual, and then positioned an additional Macintosh just underneath the video camera. This Macintosh displayed an image of an eye, which observed the space (looking left, right, up and down), occasionally blinking, and occasionally interspersed with text commenting on the process of perception, and in particular, the "action" of perception as it exists in "Very Nervous System" (perception manifested as action : perception of motion manifested as the action of sound). The limits of the field of vision of the camera were delineated in the space by walls made up of vertical strings hanging from the ceiling, spaced at 2 foot intervals; this served to enhance the sense of the visual field of the camera as a sculptural space, filled with the 'substance' of perception.

Multiple camera installations are possible although some new equipment might have to be constructed. Exhibits can be mounted with up to 6 cameras and many channels of sound, however such an implementation requires considerably more equipment, time and money to realize. Such an installation could be tailored to fit into a given budget range. New works for the system can be commissioned especially for an exhibition.

Shipping

I generally bring the equipment with me on the plane. This involves no extra baggage charges. Depending on the length of the exhibit, the equipment might have to be shipped back to me. The equipment fits in a box 2/3 meter x 2/3 meter x 2/3 meter. It weighs less than 20 kg.

Other expenses

Other than any travel and accomodation expenses, I generally ask for an artist's fee of USD\$2000 for short exhibitions.