

Don Ritter

born 1959

Don Ritter's education includes undergraduate degrees in fines arts & psychology (University of Waterloo, 1986), electronics engineering technology (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, 1979) and a masters of science in visual studies (Center for Advanced Visual Studies/Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988). This last degree includes poetry, film, video and electronic media studies at Harvard University and the MIT Media Lab. His teachers have included painter Tony Urquhart (Waterloo), film theorist Vladamir Petric (Harvard), film maker Richard Leacock (MIT), scientist Marvin Minsky (MIT), composer Tod Machover (MIT) and artist Otto Piene (MIT). His current performance and installation work with music controlled interactive video has led to collaborations with musicians George Lewis, Leo Smith, Richard Teitelbaum, Amy Denio, Trevor Tureski, Thomas Dimuzio and David Rokeby. These interactive video/music performances and installations have been presented in Canada, United States, Holland and Germany. During his interactive video performances, audiences are presented with large video projected imagery controlled by live improvised music.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITIONS

1990

NEW MUSIC AMERICA 1990, Montreal. "Beat & Cloudmouth" interactive video performance with Leslie Coles, Tom Dimuzio and David Rokeby (video and music controlled by dancer's movements).

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL MUSIQUE ACTUELLE VICTORIAVILLE, Victoriaville, Quebec. "Media Play & Cloudmouth" interactive video performance with George Lewis.

VERONA JAZZ FESTIVAL, Verona, Italy. "The Empty Chair" interactive video performance with George Lewis.

STEIM, Amsterdam. "Media Play: Given the television" interactive video performance with live television.

A SPACE Toronto. Media Play: "Given the trombone and the television" interactive video performance with George Lewis and live television.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO. "And Sum" Interactive video performance with George Lewis.

THE KITCHEN, New York City. "The Empty Chair" interactive video performance with George Lewis.

1989

NEW MUSIC AMERICA 1989, New York City. "And Sum" interactive video performance with George Lewis.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA. "Mechanical Underground" interactive video performance.

ALTERNATIVE MUSEUM, New York City. "Ducks Against Glass" interactive video performance with George Lewis, Leo Smith and Richard Teitelbaum.

THE MUSIC GALLERY, Toronto. "Underground Orpheus" interactive video performance with CEE.

1988

MEDIA LAB/MIT, Cambridge, MA. "Nose Against Glass" interactive video performance with George Lewis.

CAVS/MIT, Cambridge, MA. "Stithy" video performance/installation with Tom Dimuzio.

BADISCHER KUNSTVEREIN, Karlsruhe, Germany. "Stithy" video installation.

1987

CAVS/MIT, Cambridge, MA. "b & c" video installations.

CHARLES RIVER, Boston. "c-art" floating sculptures.

1986

CAVS/MIT, Cambridge, MA. "Telecommunications Piece" performance with Charlotte Moorman and Joe Davis.

SELECTED VIDEO SCREENINGS

1990

ARTTRANSITIONS Conference at CAVS/MIT, Cambridge, MA. "Orpheus: Current Diversions."
THE POWERPLANT, Toronto. "Certainty Persuaded Me, And Sum and Nervous Orpheus."
SIGGRAPH 90, Dallas, TX. "Orpheus: Current Diversions."
A SPACE, Toronto. "C."

1988

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, Providence, RI. "b."
WCVB, Boston. "b."
WCVB, Boston. "The Alternative Workshop."

MEDIA COVERAGE

CBC TV Montreal 6 o'clock news. studio interview, October 4, 1990.
Andrew Jones "Horizontal Hold," studio interview in Montreal Mirror, October 4, 1990.
Greg Garvey "Interactive Art Links Artist, Audience and Computer,"
in SIGGRAPH 90 DAILY, August 9, 1990.
Jeremy Marre, director. documentary film on Media Play performance. Channel 4 London, UK, June 1990.
CBC TV Toronto 11 o'clock news. coverage of Media Play performance, April 7, 1990.
Kyle Gann, "Jail House Scholar." performance review in The Village Voice, New York City, March 27, 1990.
Micki McGee, "New Technologies: Perils and Pleasure." performance review in High Performance, Winter 1989.
"Otto Piene und das CAVS." retrospective catalogue, October, 1988.

AWARDS

Canada Council Integrated Media Arts Grant. 1989, 90, 91
Bell-Northern Research Education Grant. 1986-88

POSITIONS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, Montreal, Quebec. Assistant Professor of Fine Arts, 1989-present
BELL-NORTHERN RESEARCH, Ottawa, Ontario. Human Interface Researcher, 1985-1986
NORTHERN TELECOM, Toronto, Ontario. CAD/CAM Telecommunications Designer, 1979-1982, 1984

GUEST SPEAKER

1988-1991

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, Boston. Interactive video performances.
USITT, Boston. Interactive video performances.
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY. Interactive video performances.
SIGGRAPH 90, Dallas, TX. Interactive Art and Artificial Reality, panel discussion with Myron Krueger,
Ed Tannenbaum and Greg Garvey.
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO. interactive video performances.
HARVEST WORKS/STUDIO PASS, New York City. Interactive video performances.
INTERACCESS, Toronto. interactive video performances.
MEDIA LAB/MIT, Cambridge, MA. sound-image correspondence.
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, Providence, RI. computer animation.
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA. Perceptual Differences Between Film and Video.
MEDIA LAB/MIT, Cambridge, MA. lecture series on experimental aesthetics and human interface design.