

# ART SPACE

## THE ARTISTS

### TERRENCE HANDSCOMB

Terrence Handscomb currently teaches the History and Criticism of Art and Design at the Wellington Polytechnic. He is both a painter and a computer artist. Handscomb will be showing an interactive, computer based piece that examines unstable cultural and sexual identities, inspired by theories revolving around psychosis, nomadology and social conflict. The installation will constitute an environment whereby gallery visitors can participate in the breakdown of the body image at its central position in the ordering of society. Handscomb's "despotic" representation of fluid, unintelligible bodies points to an unstable state where "any deviant proposition can never fail".

### SEAN KERR AND KERI-ANNE WHAITIRI

Sean Kerr is a lecturer in New Media at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury; Keri-Anne Whaitiri is a practising architect of Maori decent - Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Tuwharetoa - the two have collaborated previously on several projects. The work proposed for this exhibition is a collaborative piece entitled 'Dialogue'. An architectural cavity will be created, into which a multimedia system is inserted to articulate the reciprocal relationship between the notion of Te Kore (the empty "nurturing womb" of all existence), and the European idea of the void. In this 'conversation' languages, ideologies and traditions of oratory of the two races are to be explored. The body's 'understudy' - the voice - is foregrounded as unfixed; in absence.

### VICKI KERR

Vicki Kerr trained as a sculptor, and is now working with video and multimedia environments. She has planned a wall work that uses fibre optics to present a schematic diagram of a telephone call, based on telecommunications industry models for plotting connections and their duration. Thematically Kerr's installation will juxtapose the unreal, abstract, even 'animal' gesture of calling across blank space; with transposed human identity or 'voice'. The light passing through the cable becomes both a cold, efficient vehicle for information; and a sign of life.

### KIRSTY CAMERON

Kirsty Cameron is an artist who works with everything from simple ink drawings to complex audiovisuals. Her recent productions are digitally collaged and manipulated; playing with the collapse of stable identity within cyberspace. She is working with a number of artists in collaboration on a CD-rom project under the working title of 'Pheromone'. Central to the work will be queer experience or physicality, and a desire to critically address current ideas of 'interactivity'.

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## CITY GROUP

Continuing their long term cultural project dedicated to investigations of significant social and political issues, City Group are planning a video work for the Teststrip Gallery window as their contribution to Electronic Bodyscapes. By exhibiting out of the gallery they are addressing alterity in an immediate way. This is extended into the video art context - itself a distanced cousin of contemporary mass entertainments and surveillance technology. A man and woman test the boundaries between desire and violence.

## PAUL SWADEL

Operating as a 'digital artist', Paul Swadel has been making video and film work with the aid of computers for several years. The layering or supplanting of one medium with another - a constant search for synthesis of light and dark, presence and absence - is the cornerstone of his practice. For EBS, Swadel will continue with his project of "re-purposing" technology by creating a video 'palimpsest' or layered collage of constantly flickering morsels of visual information. Recalling cell division, then accelerating it with rapid replication of bytes or pixels by way of reflection and repetition, images of otherness - digital, artificial and cultural - will be the visual equivalent of a noise that offers to replace conventions of time and place with replication in every direction.

## DENNIS WILCOX

Dennis Wilcox lives and works in Sydney, Australia. For EBS Wilcox is bringing two recent works that make jumps from two to three, and from three to four dimensions, perceivable. Through such accounts of time, he comments on 'progress', and what it may mean in the shift from analogue to digital. Wilcox's 'Zenotrope' device generates a volumetric 'hyper-object' by the rapid rotating motion of a 2-D screen that sweeps out a 3-D volume, in much the same way that movie frames merge into continuous action. In this process the result is not just a movie, but a hybrid body unobtainable only in the "non-virtual" world. He refers to his 'Zenotrope Oscillator' as a three dimensional knife. A 3-d knife works using the same principle as a two dimensional knife but is made sharp by its three dimensionality, "the more three dimensional the knife, the more easily it slices four dimensional hypersolids".

## GRAHAM HARWOOD

Graham Harwood is the senior lecturer in Multimedia at the London Arts Technology Centre (ARTEC). This CDROM installation 'A Rehearsal of Memory' is about the re-recording of the life experience of a group of people detained in a maximum security mental hospital. It is a mirror to ourselves ("normal society") and our amnesia when confronted with the excesses of our society, a nightmare that leads to misinformation and fear about mental health systems. This mental space is where strong fictions lie and invisibly glue together the mirror from which we view our own sanity. This is a rehearsal of memories not quite forgotten.

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## MONA HATOUM

Mona Hatoum is a London based artist who was born in Lebanon. She is a leading video and performance artist on the international scene and took part in the prestigious 'Rites of Passage' exhibition at London's Tate Gallery last year. Her work for that show took the concept of such rites very directly - and not without humour - by leading the viewer on a larger than life size video endoscopy tour of the orifices and surfaces of her own body. This roaming view relates to similar work that 'explodes' body imagery by such artists as Stelarc and Orlan, but differs in the way that the major transformation or 'explosion' taking place in her work is that of the viewer's experience. As the video wanders on ceaselessly there is no hint of progress away from - or transcendence of - the body as known today; however there is an acute awareness of the role of the body in *current* politics of gender and colonialism.

## STELARC

Stelarc is an international performance artist who has been performing extensively around the world for the past thirty years. He is an extremely interesting and provocative artist, performer and speaker. Perhaps best known for his difficult suspension works in the late seventies and early eighties, he is widely regarded throughout the world and is in high demand. Stelarc plans to do a performance here which links Artspace Sydney with Artspace Auckland, via the internet. Stelarc will perform at Artspace in Auckland, whilst people in Sydney remotely access his body via ISDN link, to determine his performance here in Auckland.

## EBE - ELECTRONIC BODY EXPERIENCE

A high tech dance party will launch the Electronic Bodyscapes exhibition. This is being organised in association with the Moving Image Centre. It will be a **major** event on the Auckland rave scene as well as a key event for the profiling of exciting new performance art. We will follow a format as yet unseen at Auckland raves - a performance will be scheduled every 90 minutes throughout the evening, with dance music and moving images played between each. During their appearances the artists will be the focus of attention - all other effects, lighting and music will be stopped for the duration - this avoids compromising either the art or the dance experience, and adds another rhythm to augment the electronic music environment.

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Artspace is situated at level 1, 6-8 Quay St. Gallery hours are

11-5 Tue-Fri, 11-2 Sat. Artspace is a contemporary gallery devoted to exhibiting experimental work by emerging artists from New Zealand and overseas. For more information contact Lara Bowen (Director) or Donald Fraser (Gallery Assistant) on ph. 64 9 303 4965, fax 64 9 366 1842, or e-mail [artspace@artspace.org.nz](mailto:artspace@artspace.org.nz)

or Artspace's Home Page:

<http://www.artspace.org.nz>

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