< e-artlab >
a proposal by the Emergency artlab: Complexity in art conference
19.01.2001

summary

To create conditions that optimise the emergence of an artwork or distributed art works and events as a direct function of material gathered from a conference on art and complexity. To use the emergent qualities of working in an unpredictable live setting as the very subject matter of an artwork. To explore the process of integrating human activity and computing activity at a level where the underlying processes of both systems are set in motion without a conscious awareness of the emergent properties of the outcome.
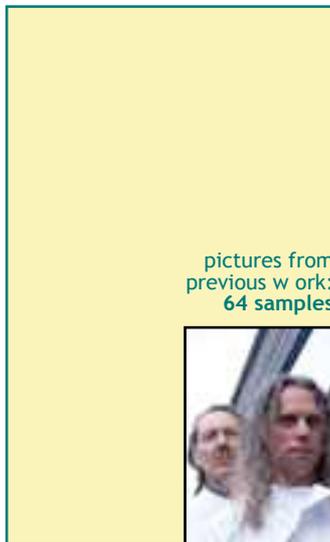
proposal

Using an array of digital technology methods, the e-artlab will devise parameters for a piece of work that becomes part of the fabric of the conference itself, gathering personal information from participants and involving this information in ways determined by both the properties of the information and the environment.

The nature and form of this work cannot, by definition, be determined at this stage but ideas will be developed in tandem with the shaping of conference plans. These will be tested in the environment, and transformed by delegates' interaction with the emergent artwork. In particular, both the content of personal information gathered and the manner of its offering, as well as the media used to elicit it, will actively influence the form of the work. It may be that the movements of individuals in the space through which people are passing is mapped by infra-red sensors, then fed back to those who have created that map. Or the work may emerge as an entity shaped entirely from the digital absorbtion of the conference as a whole - with all that this entails. Digitally tracing interactions between delegates may also determine the eventual outcome. Regarding past outcomes, at 'Wired and Dangerous' (according to the Arts Council of England) the e-artlab 'electrified delegates with their electronic sound and image installation', and the current project 'Club confessional' has already elicited a similarly enthusiastic response.

pictures from previous w ork:
64 samples

The Emergency Art Lab

Founded in 1999 from a UK C&CRS residency within Loughborough University Computer Science Department, The e-artlab seeks to create situations where art can emerge as a consequence of data gathered from the environment, and the work is shaped as a consequence of the interactions of participants. It deliberately involves an element of theatre, with the artists wearing lab coats and identification badges to provoke issues around authority, privacy and information. The aim is also to act as a window into the process of creating work using digital technology.

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Previous and current projects:

Arts Council of England commissioned work '64 samples' at 'Wired and Dangerous' Digital Arts Conference, Leicester, UK

Year of the Artist award for 'Club Confessional' at The Junction, Cambridge, UK and Pop Centrum 013, Holland

C&CRS (Loughborough University) group project 'Remergence' to be exhibited 2002

The e-artlab concept in these two situations was to use live digital performance to make serious, yet playful, comments on the electronic gathering of private information in society, and to undertake work where the outcome is defined only as a series of possible parameters, allowing the public situation to determine the emergence of the work. '64 samples' took audio and image data from participants and allowed the nature of the data to emerge as a 'performed' virtual object. The current work 'Club confessional' involves a soundproof booth in a nightclub where participants close the door and record brief personal experiences and video clips. Extracts from these samples are then prepared for mixing into the music. The work is intended to highlight the contrast between the very public space of the club and the private experiences of those who use and enjoy the space; one aim being to explore in a consensual manner the media phenomenon that simply exploits the 21st century collision of private and public. The intention is to build on this cultural momentum while creating something more thoughtful, inclusive and immediate.

The artists are familiar with the preparation of detailed budgets and schedules of work and, if accepted, will prepare and submit both, specific to this project.

artists details

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Plus collaborations as emergent conditions demand

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