

# Leonardo/ISAST NEWS

*The Newsletter of the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology*

## Portraits of Namibian Artists

The Virtual Africa website has recently added a new area dedicated to the work of Namibian artists John Muafangejo and Ndasuunje Joseph Shikongeni.

John Muafangejo, who died prematurely in 1987, left an outstanding body of work (linocuts and paintings), largely autobiographical in nature. To the art of linocut, he brought a personal touch—sensitive, humorous and critical. Most of the linocuts presented on the Virtual Africa website derive their themes from the artist's discussions with his friends and family and were inspired by traditional music as well as Muafangejo's religious feelings. This introduction to John Muafangejo includes comments by Annaleen Eins, Curator of the National Art Gallery of Namibia. (For text in English, see <[http://www.olats.org/africa/galerie/gal-john\\_muafangejo.shtml](http://www.olats.org/africa/galerie/gal-john_muafangejo.shtml)>).

After having joined the resistance struggle for the Namibian Independence, Ndasuunje Shikongeni started an artistic career, working with artist Joe Madisia at the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre. His work is directly inspired by the past and present of Namibia and testifies to his people's suffering. The Virtual Africa website presents artworks and comments by the artist himself. (For text in English, see <<http://www.olats.org/africa/galerie/gal-shikongeni.shtml>>.)  
—Jocelyne Rotily <[jocelyn.Rotily@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jocelyn.Rotily@wanadoo.fr)>

## Curtis Bahn Joins Leonardo Digital Reviews Panel

Curtis Bahn is a composer, improviser and string-bass player who specializes in live-electronic performance using gestural controllers. He received his Ph.D. in music composition from Princeton University, where his primary teachers were Paul Lansky, Steve Mackey and Paul Koonce. From 1986–1993 he was Technical Director of the Center for Computer Music of the City University of New York, where he worked and studied with composer Charles Dodge. He has taught at the Columbia University Computer Music Center (CMC), NYU, Princeton and CUNY.

Bahn's music has been presented at numerous international festivals and conferences, including the International Computer Music Conference (ICMC); Inter-Society for the Electronic Arts (ISEA); the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS); and the World Acoustic Ecology Conference. He has worked or performed with Bill Evans (sax), Wolfgang Muthspiel, Adam Makovitch, Jim Beard, Marc Johnson, Adam Nussbaum, Rashied Ali, Tom Hamilton, Eve Beglarian, Satoshi Takeishi, "Zipperspy" Maria Moran, Steve Mackey and others. With violinist Dan Trueman of the Columbia Computer Music Center, he is a founder of the multimedia performance ensemble "interface."

Bahn has recently been involved in the creation of a family of spherical speakers and sensor-speaker arrays (SenSAs)

with Dan Trueman and Perry Cook, as well as the design of numerous gestural controllers for live multimedia performance. He is currently Assistant Professor of Computer Music Composition/Performance and Assistant Professor of Information Technology and the Arts in the Integrated Electronic Arts Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (iEAR studios). He can be contacted at <[crb@rpi.edu](mailto:crb@rpi.edu)>.

## Outer Space—Cyber Space

The Fifth Space Arts Workshop ("Rencontres du 13 avril") will explore the ways that artists and scientists are using the Internet not only to extend human presence in outer space, but also to bring access to the results of space exploration to earth. The first interplanetary Internet nodes are being planned, and the international space station will be connected to the Internet. Space agencies are now using the Internet to enable broad access to the results of space exploration, and future missions are being planned to allow live webcast of images. Simulated extraterrestrial worlds have already been created by artists in virtual space, and both artists and scientists have used the Web to create scenarios of the future of space exploration. This workshop will explore how outer space and cyberspace are becoming increasingly interconnected and how concepts and approaches that have been developed within the realm of outer space activities can be related to concepts and approaches that are now experienced in cyberspace.

The "Rencontres du 13 avril" are a series of workshops co-organized by Leonardo, OLATS, the OURS Foundation and the International Academy for Astronautics. Every year since 1997, it has gathered leading scientists and artists for discussions on a specific theme for a 1-day workshop in Boulogne-Billancourt, a suburb near Paris. The "Rencontres du 13 avril" focus on the exchanges between artists and scientists and on the cultural impact of space activities.

—Annick Bureau

## LEONARDO@ARS ELECTRONICA

Transasia and Yves Delacour are maintaining their lawsuit against Leonardo. An update of the case and the wider issues involved was presented by Annick Bureau at Ars Electronica, within the openX-electrolobby framework that took place at the Brucknerhaus. Information on the Leonardo lawsuit can be found at <<http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-journals/Leonardo/isast/lawsuit.html>>.

—Annick Bureau

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