

Leonardo/ISAST NEWS

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

French Ministry of Culture Grant

Observatoire Leonardo des Arts et Technosciences (OLATS) is developing the Repères et Ressources (Highlights and Resources) critical guide to multimedia artworks. The guide will cover both on-line (web sites) and off-line (CD-ROM) works, and will also cover useful resource sites in the fields of art, science and technology.

The Repères et Ressources project recently received a grant from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication as a first step towards establishing both an on-line multimedia resource center for the French-speaking community and a French network, "Cultural Spaces for Multimedia," consisting of centers all over France dedicated to the promotion and knowledge of new media products and art forms. For more information on the project, see <<http://www.cyberworkers.com/Leonardo/OLATS/sous-menu/reperes.shtml>>.

—Annick Bureaud

Virtual Africa Gallery: Burkina Faso Artists

Works by a group of African painters and sculptors from Burkina Faso—Claude-Marie Kabre, Sama, Fernand Nonkouni, Beybson, Blanche Ouedrago, Jean-Didier Yanogo, Suzanne Ouedraogo, Ali Kere, Sokey Etorh, Namsiguigna Samandoulougou, Adama Sawadogo, Boly Sambo—are currently presented in the virtual Africa gallery. Also presented in the gallery are paintings by Abdelkader Badaoui (from N'Djamena, Chad); sculptures and robots by Unisa Kargbo (from Sierra Leone); sculptures by Aboudramane (from the Ivory Coast); and paintings and sculptures by Godefroy Kouassi (from Togo).

Currently highlighted in the Virtual Africa project is the original work of Iba Ndiaye, a painter of Senegalese origin. His paintings explore the syncopated rhythms of jazz (for example, in his series *Jazz and Blues*) and recall his youth in Dakar and his Muslim education. Ndiaye also finds his inspiration in the works of such old masters of Western art as Nicolas Poussin. He appropriates their forms to express his own vision of Africa to describe, for example, the African's condition in a world dominated by whites. To Ndiaye, the essential aspect of modernity lies in its crossed culture. The Virtual Africa Gallery is located at <http://www.cyberworkers.com/Leonardo/africa/ssi/II-projets_galerie.shtml>.

—Jocelyne Rotily

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Space and the Arts Workshop 1999

Leonardo/ISAST, OLATS, OURS Foundation, the International Academy of Astronomics and its Art and Literature Committee held the third annual "Rencontres du 13 Avril" workshop on 21 March 1999 outside of Paris on the theme "Cultural Perspectives on Space."

The workshop focused on the cultural (artistic and scientific) dimensions of the space age "after the exploration." Discussions centered on the questions, approaches, attitudes, thinking and research conducted today on living in space. Among the presentations were artists' projects, exhibitions celebrating the third millennium, discussions of the interior design of an art annex for the International Space Station, etc.

Among the participants were Ralf Buelow, curator, Berliner Festspiele GmbH; Jean Clair, director du Musée Picasso, Paris; artists Richard Clar, Jean-Philippe Fontanille, Marko Peljhan, Jean-Marc Philippe, Richard Americus de Seabra and Arthur Woods; and scientists Frank Friedlaender, Roger Malina and Susan McKenna-Lawlor. For more information, see <<http://www.cyberworkers.com/Leonardo/OLATS/space.index.shtml>>.

—Annick Bureaud

Pioneers and Pathbreakers: Nicolas Schöffer

The Leonardo Pioneers and Pathbreakers art history project (<http://www.cyberworkers.org/olats/pionniers>) has constructed a web site on the work of technological artist Nicolas Schöffer. Materials recently added to the site include statements by Marc Saltet, Georges Patix and Claude Parent; new images of Schöffer's digital artwork *Microtemps 9* (1962); and statements about Schöffer's collaborators, including Maurice Bejart and Pierre Schaeffer. Individuals with documents or visual images relating to the work of Schöffer who are interested in adding them to this web site should E-mail <bureaud@altern.org>.

—Annick Bureaud

Leonardo Book Series

Art and Innovation: The idea behind Xerox's interdisciplinary Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) is simple: put creative people in a hothouse setting and innovation will naturally emerge. Xerox PARC's Artist-in-Residence Program (PAIR) brings artists who use new media to PARC and pairs them with researchers who use related media in different contexts. This is radically different from most corporate support of the arts, which entails little intersection between the disciplines. The results are interesting and new innovations in art and science.

Art and Innovation: The Xerox PARC Artist-in-Residence Program explores the unique process that grew from this pairing of new media artists and scientists working at the frontier of developing technologies. In addition to discussing specific works created during several long-term residencies, the artists and researchers reveal the similarities and differences in their approaches and perspectives as they engage each other in search of new methods of communication and creativity. For more information and to order, visit the MIT web site at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/book-home.tcl?isbn=0262082756>.

The Digital Dialectic: Computers linked to networks have created the first broadly used systems that allow individuals to create, distribute and receive audiovisual content with the same box. They challenge theorists of digital culture to develop interaction-based models to replace the more primitive models that allow only passive use.

The Digital Dialectic is an interdisciplinary jam session about our visual and intellectual cultures as the computer recodes technologies, media and art forms. Unlike purely academic texts on new media, the book includes contributions by scholars, artists and entrepreneurs who combine theoretical investigations with hands-on analysis of the possibilities (and limitations) of new technology. The key concept is the digital dialectic: a method to ground the insights of theory in the constraints of practice. The essays move beyond journalistic reportage and hype into serious but accessible discussion of new technologies, new media and new cultural forms. For more information and to order, visit the MIT web site at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/book-home.tcl?isbn=0262122138>. For a full list of titles in the Leonardo Book Series, see <http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-journals/Leonardo/isast/leobooks.html>.

—Doug Sery

A WORD OF THANKS

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