

Leonardo Network News

*The Newsletter of the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology
and of l'Observatoire Leonardo des Arts et Technosciences*

Melinda Klayman Leaves Leonardo/ISAST

Melinda Klayman's last day at Leonardo was 20 August 2004. Melinda started work at Leonardo in November 2002 as Director of Development and Communications. She brought a great deal of enthusiasm and creativity to the post, working energetically to build the organization's board of directors, to raise money through fundraising and proposal writing, and to bring order to many of our internal administrative systems. Her determination, work ethic and humor will be missed severely at Leonardo. We all wish her the very best in her new position at Palm One. Certainly the same skills she brought to Leonardo will serve her well in all of her future endeavors.

Communications that previously went to Melinda can now be addressed to Kathleen Quillian at the main Leonardo e-mail account: <isast@leonardo.info>.

Christian Simm Joins the Leonardo/ISAST Governing Board

Leonardo/ISAST welcomes Christian Simm to its Governing Board of Directors. Simm is currently Executive Director of swissnex <<http://www.swissnex.org>>, a newly established exchange platform to foster cooperation and partnerships between Switzerland and Western North America in science and technology, education and entrepreneurship and art and innovation.

In December 1997, Simm opened the Swiss Science and Technology Office for the western U.S.A. and western Canada in San Francisco. The office fosters high-level transatlantic exchanges in research and development, education and innovation. Thanks to extensive partnerships with the private and public sectors, Simm grew the one-man operation into a larger team; developed SwissTalents, a network of highly skilled professionals living outside Switzerland; established a sophisticated information exchange platform; and organized a series of successful business networking events. The Swiss magazine *Bilan* listed Simm in the Who's Who of the Swiss Internet Economy. He is the author of numerous articles in newspapers and magazines, and a member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Contact Christian Simm at <christian.simm@swissnex.org>.

Leonardo 37:4 Launched at BEAP

Leonardo/ISAST launched issue 37:4 of the print journal *Leonardo* at the Biennial of Electronic Arts Perth (BEAP) in September 2004. As part of the "BioDifference: The Political Ecology" conference within BEAP, Leonardo publications were featured along with many members of the Leonardo network.

Leonardo Editorial Advisor George Gessert delivered the BioDifference keynote address; Leonardo/ISAST Governing Board member Stephen Wilson was the conference plenary

speaker. The BioDifference conference took place at the University of Western Australia on 11 September 2004. For more information, see <www.beap.org>.

Leonardo Educators and Students Program

Leonardo has expanded its programs and collaborations dedicated to promoting the advancement of scholarship in the field of art/science/technology.

Leonardo at CAA Atlanta 2005

As an affiliated society of the College Art Association (CAA), Leonardo has joined the largest professional community of artists and art historians in the United States.

The Leonardo/CAA committee is a working group of artists, scientists and engineers who belong to both the Leonardo Network and CAA. The committee's purpose is to develop joint actions by the two organizations, such as promoting the work of artists and art historians in the art-science and art-technology interdisciplinary fields. The working group, which is also an on-line discussion list, will develop proposals for sessions at CAA meetings and mentoring programs for students in the field, among other things. The list is open to any person who is part of both CAA and the Leonardo Network.

The Leonardo/CAA working group members currently include: Matthew Akers, Michael Anthony, Julio Bermúdez, Jay David Bolter, Michael Century, James Coupe, Nina Czegledy, Mette Gieskes, Anne Collins Goodyear, Diane Gromala, Kara Hammond, Gabriel Harp, Amy Ione, Tim Jackson, Celine Jeffery, Nisar Keshvani, Ellen Levy, Roger Malina, Steven J. Oscherwitz, Stephen and Lauren Petersen, Tim Peterson, Sheila Pinkel, Dana Plautz, Michael Punt, Mark Resch, Dan Sandin, Edward Shanken, Yvonne Spielmann, Ival Stratford-Kovner, Ruth West and Karen White.

To join the Leonardo/CAA working group, go to: <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/leonardocaacommitee/join>>.

Leonardo will hold three sessions at the 2005 CAA conference in Atlanta, GA, U.S.A., 16–19 February 2005: a Special Session, a Business Meeting Town Hall and a Mentor Workshop. The special session is entitled "Hybridity: Arts, Sciences, and Cultural Effects," co-chaired by Yvonne Spielmann of the Braunschweig School of Art and Jay David Bolter of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Confirmed speakers in this session include Amy Ione, Diatrop Institute; Dan Sandin, University of Illinois at Chicago; Diane Gromala, Georgia Institute of Technology; and George Legrady, University of California at Santa Barbara.

*Leonardo Network News Coordinator: Kathleen Quillian.
E-mail: <isast@leonardo.info>.*

Leonardo has the opportunity to serve the growing community of emerging scholars and artists in art/science/technology by expanding the already established CAA mentoring program.

Every year, the CAA conference features career development workshops, in which students in art and art history meet one-on-one with advanced professionals in their field of interest. Leonardo will operate a mentor workshop in the newly created Art and Science category, and hopes to take the mentoring program one step further. CAA has offered Leonardo a 2-hour time slot prior to the workshop for a roundtable discussion featuring experienced art/science/technology faculty and specialists who are willing to share their knowledge, experience and perspective through a Q&A session with students who sign up for Leonardo Mentorship or plan to do further experimental and scholarly work in the art/science/technology field. The workshop and panel discussion will enhance the already active CAA mentoring program as well as widen the Leonardo community by bringing emerging professionals into contact with their more established cohorts in the field.

The Leonardo/CAA Working Group is currently seeking art/science/technology faculty and artist/researchers who are interested in improving the mentoring available to students in the field to discuss their latest art/science/technology research. We also solicit students who may be interested in sharing their experiences and perspectives. Interested faculty and students will participate in the Leonardo roundtable presentation and discussion at the CAA Annual Conference in Atlanta. This is the first year that CAA and the Leonardo network have combined their networks to develop support for students working in the art/science/technology field. This session will take place on Wednesday, 16 February 2005 from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Steve Oscherwitz, University of Washington, <sjosch@u.washington.edu>.

Leonardo Abstracts Service (LABS)

LABS is intended to be a comprehensive database of thesis abstracts (Ph.D., Master's and M.F.A.) in the emerging fields at the intersections of art, science and technology. The abstracts are available on-line at Pomona College, Claremont, California, so that interested persons can access them at no cost. Authors interested in having their thesis abstracts considered for publication should fill out the Thesis Abstract Submittal form at <<http://leonardolabs.pomona.edu>>.

An international peer review panel (PRP) made up of academics and artists reviews the abstracts for inclusion in the database; the English-language peer review panelists for 2004/2005 are Pau Alsina, Jody Berland, Sean Cubitt, Frieder Nake, Sheila Pinkel (chair) and Stephen Petersen. Abstracts will be reviewed for inclusion quarterly. The database will include only approved and filed thesis abstracts. Theses filed in prior years also may be submitted for inclusion.

Refresh! First International Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology

28 September–1 October 2005 at Banff New Media Institute, Canada

Institutional Summit: 2–3 October 2005 at Banff

Recognizing the increasing significance of media art for our culture, the Refresh Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology will discuss for the first time the history of media art within the interdisciplinary and intercultural contexts of the histories of art. Leonardo/ISAST, the Database for Virtual Art, Banff New Media Institute and UNESCO DigiArts are collaborating to produce the first international art history conference covering art and new media, art and technology, art-science interaction, and the history of media as it pertains to contemporary art.

After photography, film, video and the little-known media art history of the 1960s–1980s, today media artists are active in a wide range of digital areas (including interactive, genetic and telematic art). Even in robotics and nanotechnology, artists design and conduct experiments. This dynamic process has triggered intense discussion about images within the disciplines of art history, media studies and neighboring cultural disciplines. The Leonardo Media Art History Project offers a foundation for building an evolutionary history of audiovisual media, from the *laterna magica* to the panorama, phantasmagoria, film and virtual art of recent decades. This evolution has breaks and detours; however, all its stages are distinguished by a close relationship between art, science and technology.

Refresh! will represent and address the wide array of disciplines involved in the emerging field of media art. Besides art history these include the histories of sciences and technologies, film, sound, media, visual and theater studies, architecture and visual psychology, to name just a few.

Although the popularity of media art exhibited at exhibitions and art festivals is growing among the public and increasingly influences theoretical debates, with few exceptions museums and galleries have neglected to systematically collect this present-day art, to preserve it and to demand appropriate conservatory measures, thus endangering the history of collecting and studying international media art. This gap will have far-reaching consequences; therefore, the conference also will discuss the documentation, collection, archiving and preservation of media art. What kinds of international networks must be created to advance appropriate policies for collection and conservation? What kinds of new technologies do we need to optimize research efforts and information exchange?

For further information about the forthcoming conference and the long-term Leonardo Media Art History Project, please e-mail to join: <banffleoarthistconfinfo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>.