

Leonardo Network News

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

Leonardo Education and Art Forum Report for 2011

The Leonardo Education and Art Forum (LEAF) completed a very productive year filled with robust discussions, Leonardo Art-Science Evening Rendezvous (LASER) salons and other notable events.

Patricia Olynyk, Chair of LEAF, and former Chair Ellen Levy hosted a post-Thanksgiving New York LASER—the final NY LASER of the year—on Sunday, 11 December at the studio of Ellen Levy. To encourage deeper discussion, the meeting focused on summarizing projects presented at NY LASER events throughout 2011.

Victoria Vesna, former Chair of LEAF, launched the first Hong Kong LASER on 9 December at Videotage. The event was co-hosted with biologist Yun Wah Lam, who will lead future meetings. The City University of Hong Kong School of Creative Media will be hosting the Art|Sci network site. Space will be provided on a regular basis by Videotage, a leading Hong Kong nonprofit organization active since 1986.

The Art Media and Technology program at Parsons is hosting the Art|Sci network site initiated by Vesna. See <artsci.parsons.edu> for further details.

Paul Thomas, an International LEAF Affiliate, moderated LEAF education workshops in collaboration with the Australian Forum at ISEA2011 Istanbul and at Rewire, the Fourth International Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology in Liverpool. The workshops focused on transdisciplinary visual arts, science-and-technology renewal and post-new media assimilation.

College Art Association Conference panels at the Los Angeles Convention Center in 2012 of potential interest to LEAF members included: "Is It Time to Question the 'Privileging' of Visual Art?," Friday, 24 February; chairs: Greta Berman, The Juilliard School; Ellen K. Levy, independent artist, New York. "Headlines! Environmental News, Artist Presenters, Audience Respondents," Wednesday, 22 February; chair: Linda Weintraub, Artnow Publications. "Momentum: Women/Art/Technology," Thursday, 23 February; chairs: Ferris Olin, Institute for Women and Art, Rutgers University; Muriel Magenta, Arizona State University. "Sustainable Futures: New Cultural Movements in Art + Ecology," Saturday, 25 February; chair: Patricia Olynyk, Chair, LEAF. Leonardo Education and Art Forum Business Meeting, Thursday, 23 February. "LEAF Education Roundtable Education at the Intersections of Art, Science, and Technology," Thursday, 23 February; workshop leader: Eddie Shanken.

Leonardo Editorial Board Term Renewals

Jack Ox, Jacques Mandelbrojt, Robert Root-Bernstein and Louise Poissant were all reappointed in November 2011 to the Leonardo Editorial Board. Leonardo Editorial Board members assist the editor-in-chief and journal editors with reviewing manuscripts considered for publication in the journals and provide general guidance on the quality and direction of the journal.

Jack Ox is Associate Research Professor in Music and associated faculty at the Center for Advanced Research Computing (CARC), University of New Mexico. She has studied beyond her MFA in visual arts at the University of California at San Diego and done considerable research in both music theory (Manhattan School of Music, New York City) and phonetics (University of Cologne) in order to produce work that visually maps structures from extant examples of music, creating information visualizations. Currently she is writing a dissertation on Conceptual Metaphor Theory for the School of Design at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia.

Her past work includes musical visualizations of Igor Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*, Gregorian plainsong, J.S. Bach, John Cage's *4'33"*, Debussy's *Nuages* and Anton Bruckner's *Eighth Symphony*. During a 7-year stay in Germany, she made an 800-sq-ft visualization of Kurt Schwitters's *Ursonate*, the 41-minute sound poem based on German phonemes. Ox and Kristen Loree, a professor in Theatre at UNM who developed an *Ursonate* concurrently with but independently from Ox, are collaborating with UNM composers Peter Gilbert and Karola Obermueller and VJ/DJ Jane daPain to create a multi-generational, full-dome and multiple-projector version, including new electronic music and VJ collages of the original materials. She is collaborating with David Britton on *The 21st-Century Virtual Color Organ*, a virtual-reality performance in an immersive environment.

Ox was co-editor with Jacques Mandelbrojt of the Leonardo Special Section "Synesthesia and Intersenses." Ox is also co-director of Scientist Artist Research Collaboration (SARC), an ongoing artist/scientist project to be showcased at ISEA2012. This program aims to enable equal and fruitful collaborations between artists and scientists.

Louise Poissant, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a Professor at the School of Visual and Media Arts and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM). She has been the Director of the Group for Research in Media Arts (GRAM) since 1989 and was Director of the Centre interuniversitaire des arts médiatiques (CIAM) from 2001 to 2006. CIAM includes researchers from Concordia University, the University of Montreal, McGill University and UQAM.

Poissant has published many books and papers in the field of media arts in various journals in Canada, France and the United States. Among other achievements, she directed the writing and translation of a dictionary on the media arts published in French and in sections in *Leonardo*. The electronic version of this dictionary, available since 1997, has become an encyclopedia that includes works from artists around the world. She also co-authored a series of 13 video documentaries on media arts in collaboration with TV Ontario and UQAM'S

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

distance-learning campus TELUQ and collaborated with several artists on video portraits at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Montreal. Her current research themes are new technologies applied to the field of performance arts and biotechnologies and arts.

Robert Root-Bernstein is a scientist, humanist and artist at Michigan State University. He earned his A.B. in Biochemistry (Bob Langridge, 1975) and a Ph.D. in History of Science (Thomas Kuhn, 1980) from Princeton University. He combined his two fields as a Post-doctoral Fellow in Theories in Biology with Jonas Salk at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. A MacArthur Fellowship (1981–1986) encouraged his multidisciplinary activities. He is currently a Professor of Physiology at Michigan State University, where he studies the evolution of metabolic control systems, autoimmune diseases, drug development and the creative process in the sciences and arts. He exhibits his artwork in both group and solo shows and collaborates with the transmedia artist Adam Brown <adamwbrown.net>. Root-Bernstein has written four books, including *Discovering* (Harvard University Press, 1989) and *Sparks of Genius* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999), and is at work on two more: one on artists and musicians as scientists and inventors and the second on modern scientists as visual artists. He also writes a blog on creativity in art and science with his wife Michele Root-Bernstein, called “Imagine That!” on the *Psychology Today* website: <blogs.psychologytoday.com/blog/imagine>.

Jacques Mandelbrojt is an artist and theoretical physicist. He has been painting since 1942 and has participated in 30 national and international one-man shows and 20 group shows since 1954. He has published 25 notes and articles in theoretical physics and was professor at Marseille University. These dual activities led him to compare art and science, especially their creative processes. He was co-editor of *Leonardo* from 1970 to 1986 and has been an honorary editor since 1986. He has written over 29 articles on art and science since 1967, mainly in *Leonardo* (15 articles, editorials and notes since 1969). He co-edited with L. Alcopley and G. Careri the special issue “Art and Science: Similarities, Differences and Interactions” (*Leonardo* 27, No. 3, 1994) and published two books on these themes. He has given numerous lectures and co-organized several colloquia. He created a university department of visual arts (1970–1973) and delivered a course on art and science. Time being an essential element of his art and music being the art of time, Mandelbrojt has been led to work with composers. He is a member of Laboratoire Musique et Informatique de Marseille (MIM), where he collaborates with music composers. His collaboration with composers led him to write the editorial “Intersenses” (*Leonardo* 32, No. 1, 1999) and to co-edit with Jack Ox the *Leonardo* Special Section “Synesthesia and Intersenses.” Recently he published *un bel éclair qui durerait*, a 20-page, 4.3-m-long unfolding book with a music CD, *viola two viola*, improvised by Cyprien Busolini and Frantz Loriot, interpreting the long painting of the book <www.derrierelevitre.com>.

SUPPORT LEONARDO

The Leonardo Vision

Leonardo/ISAST is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for the powerful exchange of ideas between practitioners in art, science and technology. Through publications, initiatives and public forums, Leonardo/ISAST facilitates cross-disciplinary research in these fields, seeking to catalyze fruitful solutions for the challenges of the 21st century. Among the challenges requiring cross-disciplinary approaches are establishing sustainable environmental practices, spreading global scientific and artistic literacy, creating technological equity, and encouraging freedom of thought and imagination. By enhancing communication between scientists, artists, and engineers, Leonardo supports experimental projects and interacts with established institutions of art and science to transform their research and educational practices.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Leonardo depends on its community of supporters to fund its programs. These goals and actions are made possible by donors like you!

Donations to Leonardo are tax-deductible as provided by law. There are a number of ways to make a donation—please visit <www.leonardo.info/isast/donations.html> or contact us at Leonardo/ISAST, 211 Sutter Street, Suite 501, San Francisco, CA 94108, U.S.A.