

For Immediate Release
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Art and Electronic Media
June 16 - July 10, 2009

Book launch and group exhibition featuring art and ideas from Edward Shanken's *Art and Electronic Media* (Phaidon Press, 2009). Including work by Laurie Anderson, Jim Campbell, Tim Hawkinson, Michael Joaquin Grey, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Robert Lazzarini, Golan Levin, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Mark Napier, Manfred Mohr, Tony Oursler, C.E.B. Reas, Jennifer Steinkamp, and Lillian Schwartz.

Thursday, June 18, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Opening reception with a short talk, Q&A, and book-signing with the author at 7:00 PM

Friday, June 19, 6:30-7:30 PM

Film/video screening of select works from the 1980s by Lynn Hershman Leeson and a trailer for her forthcoming documentary "Women Art Revolution: The Turbulent and (Formerly) Secret History of the Feminist Art Movement, 1968-2009" (expected 2010)

Gallery Hours: 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Tue–Sat (through June 27) and Mon–Fri (starting June 29)

bitforms gallery is pleased to announce a group exhibition that celebrates art and ideas in a new publication by art historian Edward Shanken, *Art and Electronic Media*. Highlighting work by more than a dozen groundbreaking artists, the exhibit "Art and Electronic Media" embraces a wide range of creative practices in the last four decades.

As visual artists embraced emerging theories and techniques of information, computation, and communication in the 1960s and 1970s, many partnered with research laboratories and broadcast networks. For example, inspired by German philosopher Max Bense's "information aesthetics," artist Manfred Mohr used the Fortran programming language to create ink drawings with a Benson flatbed plotter at the Institut Météorologique in France. In 1971 he displayed his work at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris in the first museum exhibition comprised solely of computer-generated images. Among work from this period is *P-52 (Quark Lines)*, included in "Art and Electronic Media."

At Bell Labs that year, artist Lillian Schwartz collaborated with Kenneth Knowlton to create *Olympiad*, a rhythmic and mathematically rigorous 16 mm computational film that was inspired by the cycles of kinetic human form captured by 19th century photographer Eadweard Muybridge. Later, echoing Schwartz's interest in figurative representation and film-making, Jim Campbell created *Ambiguous Icon #1, Running Falling* (2000), a flickering, pixel-based experience generated by LEDs arranged in a Cartesian grid.

At the turn of this century, a new generation of artists first gained recognition in exhibits such as "BitStreams" and "Data Dynamics" at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2001. Pieces from this period in the exhibit include the emblematic oak and steel *Hammers* by Robert Lazzarini and documentation of the performance, *Dialtones (A Telesymphony)*, by Golan Levin, which premiered at the Ars Electronica Festival in 2001. Also included is *Process 8* by C.E.B. Reas, who co-founded the open source programming language Processing.

Rounding out the exhibition is a 1988 wall drawing by Michael Joaquin Grey, *Object as Preposition*. A mid-1990s sculpture by Laurie Anderson will be on view, as well as a surreal kinetic sculpture by Tim Hawkinson which clanks out a rendition of Jim Croce's "Time in a Bottle" using a rotating thermos and steak knives. Also included are recent mixed media works on paper by Tony Oursler and Jennifer Steinkamp's video installation, *Dance Hall Girl 11*, along with new documentation of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's *Voz Alta (Loud Voice)*, a memorial commissioned for the 40th anniversary of the 1968 student massacre in Tlatelolco. In addition, a new generative collage using imagery from the Internet will be shown by Mark Napier, who has constructed a screen-based Futurist portrait of Pamela Anderson that is reminiscent of marionette puppetry and Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase*.

Edward Shanken is Assistant Professor of New Media at the University of Amsterdam. For more information on the author and the book, please visit www.artextra.com

For more information on the exhibition please visit:

www.bitforms.com

Directions to bitforms gallery

Nearest subway is the C/E to 23rd St in Chelsea

bitforms gallery is devoted to emerging and established artists who embrace new media and contemporary art practice.