

Ouija Experiment on Collective Gesture in Responsive Media Spaces

The Topological Media Lab conducted a series of experiments - called Ouija - regarding movement and intentionality, June 25 - July 18, 2007, at Concordia's EV Hexagram-Blackbox.

Choreographers Soo-yeon Cho & advisor Michael Montanaro , 7 dancers, media creators from the Topological Media Lab, and collaborating researchers held a series of experiments in structured improvisation exploring the emergence of collective intention in a field of movement. The field of movement includes un-prepared everyday "un-conscious" movement, pre-conditioned but un-rehearsed movement, as well as fully phrased movement. The experiments included dancers and non-dancers, sometimes identified as such, sometimes not. Themes included entrainment, camouflage, calligraphy and exchanging initiative and momentum between dancers and media.

All these experimental events lived in a set of responsive substrate media supplied with Oxygen's calligraphic media and gestural sound, WYSIWYG's sounding tapestries, and some proto-jewelry. See the TML Showcase of Cosmicomics, Meteor Shower, WYSIWYG, and Excitable Sites for related work.

We will invite expert collaborators to join some of the TML campfires that we'll hold during the Blackbox residency. Please see the Google calendar for the details of our experiment.

A public presentation was held on Wednesday July 18.

VIDEO (320 X 240 :: 28 MB)

VIDEO (320 X 240 :: 7 MB)

Prof. Sha Xin Wei, Director

Soo-yeon Cho, Choreographer

Dancers:

Mike Croitoru

Kiani del Valle

Veronique Gaudreau

Rebecca Halls

Marie Laurier

Joannie Pharand

Olivia Foulke

Oxygen:

Jean-Sebastien Rousseau, Calligraphic video, videography, visual effects, production

Tim Sutton, Gestural sound design and programming, production

Emmanuel Thivierge, State engine, camera tracking, production

Filip Radonjic, Live ink painting

WYSIWYG:

Marguerite Bromley (XS Labs), Tapestry design and weaving

Elliot Sinyor (IDMIL McGill), Tapestry mechatronics

David Gauthier, Tapestry mechatronics

Freida Abtan, Sound design & programming

David Birnbaum (IDMIL McGill), Sound design & programming

Doug van Nort (IDMIL McGill), Gestural motion feature analysis

Josee-Anne Drolet, TML Project Coordinator, production, videography, editing

Harry Smoak, TML Research Coordinator, production support, research advisor

Ma Zhiming, Production

Special thanks to Faculty Colleagues:

Prof. Michael Montanaro, Contemporary Dance, Ouija movement experiment design

Prof. Marcelo Wanderley, IDMIL, McGill University, WYSIWYG gestural control of sound synthesis

Prof. Joey Berzowska, XS Labs, Interactive textiles

Thanks also to affiliates of the TML and the SenseLab for artistic and research support: Michael Fortin, Elena Frantova, Olfa Driss, Rene Sills, Raul Gomez, Paul Melançon, Antoine Blanchet, Younjeong Choi, Shermine Sawalha