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# DAMT Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ART, MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HOBOKEN, N. J. 07030

## Message from the Directors

We've got a lot of exciting developments that have transpired since the beginning of our first academic year. We'll be utilizing the format of this newsletter to disseminate information, as well as announce upcoming events and news that might be of interest to you. Please feel free to contact us with topics that you'd like to see reported here. On another note, we hope everyone has had a successful school year and is enjoying the spring semester.

For those of you who don't know us, we'll introduce ourselves here and point you to further resources. Julie Harrison, director of Art & Technology, is an award-winning digital and video artist who has exhibited her work internationally. She has been at Stevens since 1992. See more about her work and complete bio at: <http://personal.stevens.edu/~jharriso>. David Musial, who has been at Stevens since 1993, is director of Music & Technology. He is an award-winning producer, composer, performer and entrepreneur. David is also the executive producer and faculty advisor for the exciting new student-operated record company: Stevens Multimedia, LLC, Castle Point Productions, Castle Point Publishing & Castle Point Records (see "New Venture" page 2). To read more about David's work go to: [www.oneworldartists.com/davidmusial-com/index.htm](http://www.oneworldartists.com/davidmusial-com/index.htm)

## Biosculptures™ that Clean Water

DAMT Artist-in-Residence, Jackie Brookner, has teamed up with Dr. Dilhan Kalyon, Professor and Director of the Highly Filled Materials Institute in the Department of Chemical, Biomedical and Materials Engineering. Brookner makes public art projects called biosculptures™ which clean polluted water in wetlands, rivers, streams and storm water runoff, and together, they have formed a company and are working towards the "development of porous modules from commingled plastics waste streams towards moss-containing sculptures which can be used for rain water filtration in urban settings." For more information about Brookner's Biosculptures, see [www.jackiebrookner.net](http://www.jackiebrookner.net).



## New Exhibition Space

We are happy to announce that DAMT will be utilizing the large glass atrium in the new Babbio Center for exhibitions and art installations. Exhibitions will rotate and be organized by guest curators.

Our first show, "The Story of Experiments in Art & Technology (E.A.T.)," from Sept. 23–Oct. 30, curated by Julie Martin and Julie Harrison, will be in conjunction with the gala inauguration of the building, and will highlight the work of this historically renowned group. E.A.T. was founded in 1966 by Bell Labs' Billy Klüver, an electrical engineer from Sweden, Robert Rauschenberg, then a young American artist interested in combining media and popular culture with technology, performance artist Robert Whitman, and engineer Fred Waldhauer. Engineers, scientists and artists worked together — ultimately hundreds of them — and 28 chapters of E.A.T. were founded by regional artists and engineers across the U.S. It is the work of E.A.T. that has inspired Stevens' Art & Technology program.

Beginning with Klüver's collaboration with Jean Tinguely on "Homage to New York," the machine that destroyed itself in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1960, the exhibition will include work resulting from Klüver's collaborations with artists incorporating new technology in the early 1960s, including

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## Students Start Record Venture



William Putney, a Music & Tech major, decided to form his own independent record company in the fall of 2004. With the help of David Musial and Eliot Loshak, our Music Business adjunct professor, and the support of VP for Technology Initiatives, Dr. Helena Wisniewski, Stevens students formed a student-operated corporation called Stevens Multimedia,

LLC, which maintains Castle Point™ Productions, Castle Point™ Publishing and Castle Point™ Records. Students Ian Wolf, Tim Alexander, Stephan Puig, Paul Rhea, William Putney, Nina Donskoy, Thomas Albrecht and more are operating the exciting venture. They have the president of the New York chapter of the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences, Carlos Alomar, co-producing one act that features a student from Stevens performing in the band! They will record the music at Rob Harari's HarariVille studio in Weehawken, on the Hoboken border, ([www.HarariVille.com](http://www.HarariVille.com)).

Students who want to help design the logos, website and CD art, please contact David Musial at [dmusial@stevens.edu](mailto:dmusial@stevens.edu). They plan to go to press on May 1, and have a record release and label kick-off event in October.

## New Faculty

Most of you have already met our new faculty members, but in addition to those teaching this semester, we have been joined by Claudia Hart, who will be teaching Animation in the fall.

**Claudia Hart**, member of digiGirls, a collective of professional artists, curators, animators, and academics who utilize a broad spectrum of approaches to the digital arts, also teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and Pratt Institute. Her work, which currently deals with stereotypes of the female body and



gaming, appears in many institutional collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, NY, The Metropolitan Museum, NY, The San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Berlin. Claudia has her BA in Fine Arts, from New York University, and her MS from Columbia University School of Architecture.

**Nancy Manter** is teaching Drawing I & II. She comes to us from Princeton, NYU, and Parsons.

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## FACULTY NEWS

**David Musial** gave a presentation in DeBaun on Feb. 22, which was attended by his very own recording talent, MJ Medina. MJ became the center of the presentation as local talent (the brother/sister team is from Hoboken), highlighting their development from cartoon voiceovers to the big singing duo for teens that they are.

**Joseph Nechvatal** spoke on a panel February 23 at The Cleveland Art Institute entitled "Photography, Painting and Sculpture: Working Digitally" whereby artists examine the effect of digital technologies on those media. He also wrote a review of "Palladio: A Multi-media Spectacle" by Ben Neill and Bill Jones at Symphony Space, and on March 8, he spoke on the theme "Virus Redux: Reconfiguring Culture" on P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center's web radio show Bio-Blurb (archived at [www.wps1.org](http://www.wps1.org)). Joseph's one-man exhibition, "Translocation of the Virtual Reality," debuted at Galerie In Situ, in Aalst, Belgium, from March 12–April 17th, 2005.

**Juana Valdes's** work opened in three exhibitions last month. Two were in Manhattan; "BODY HUMAN" at the Nohra Haime Gallery, 41 E. 57th St., 6th Fl., from March 9–April 10; and "ASSumption" at Paul Sharpe Contemporary Art, 86 Walker Street, Fl. Six, from March 9–April 9. The other was in St. Petersburg, FL at Florida Craftsmen, Inc., entitled "Deep Blue: Caribbean-American Statements" from March 25–May 14. There's still time to go see it!

**Claudia Hart** presented her work in a talk at NYC ACM SIGGRAPH (Special Interest Group for GRAPHics) on March 31 with the collective digiGirls at the New York Institute of Technology. Claudia also published and presented a paper in February at the College Art Association's

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## Symposium Focuses on Generations

### FACULTY NEWS ... cont'd

annual conference in Atlanta Georgia, entitled "Virtual Sex: The Female Body in Digital Art" (<http://bad.eserver.org/issues/2005/72/hartherbst.html>). In addition, her animation/installation *Timegarden 01* premiered in San Francisco at the Exploratorium Museum in "Natural Reflections," a 4-person exhibition that runs until May 17.

**Julie Harrison** participated with Granary Books in the Small Publishers Fair at Conway Hall in London in October, which featured a special exhibition of books from Granary's collection, and was also exhibited at the School of Arts, Design, & Technology at the University of Derby.

**Nancy Manter** joined the strategic planning committee for Dieu Donne Papermill in Manhattan and recently consulted on a project for a newly renovated historical arts building at the University of Maryland. Upcoming exhibitions include a group show at Metaphor gallery in Brooklyn and Yellow Bird Gallery in Purchase New York. This summer Nancy is directing the summer arts and science program at Mount Desert Symposium "LandEscapes" 2005.

### OTHER NEWS

On Feb 17, the multi-talented **Billy Atwel** was a guest speaker for the HMU402 MIDI & Electronic Music class, where he gave an overview of his compositional process. Billy is a composer of traditional as well as electronic scores and plays guitar, effects pedals, synthesizer, drums and digaradoo. His progressive rock group, "Shirley Temple of Doom" was the pit band for a production of *God Spell* off Broadway ([www.BillyAtwell.com](http://www.BillyAtwell.com)). Our students praised his class and found him quite inspiring!

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DAMT has joined with the School of Visual Arts, MIT, Eyebeam Center for Art & Technology and Harvestworks Digital Media Arts Center in sponsoring a symposium and related events on September 23 titled "Re: Generations: From Technological to Virtual Art." This event will feature three panels of internationally renowned artists and historians speaking about the past, present and future of art & technology. From there we will host a reception and book-release party (Frank Popper's *From Technological to Virtual Art*, MIT Press, and Bruce Wand's *Art of the Digital Age*, Thames & Hudson) at Eyebeam in Chelsea, after which will be an evening of avant-garde performances and installations. Students interested in working at the symposium, please contact Julie Harrison at [jharriso@stevens.edu](mailto:jharriso@stevens.edu).

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Nancy recently collaborated with Ben Shedd, co-founder of the Imax Theater, on Toni Morrison's Atelier Project, a multiple screen public installation for the Princeton campus, and has exhibited in the U.S., Europe and South America. Her multidisciplinary work is strongly rooted in technology and nature, and she is the founder and artistic director of LandEscapes, an annual art & science symposium in Maine. Nancy holds a BFA from the U. of New Mexico and MFA from the U. of Wisconsin-Madison. E-mail: [nmanter@aol.com](mailto:nmanter@aol.com); [www.nancymanter.com](http://www.nancymanter.com).

**Juana Valdes** is teaching Intro to Principles of Form & Design I & II. She recently taught at Bard College and Yale, and has worked extensively at The European Ceramic Work Center in Holland. Juana's work began in a traditional sculptural style and has expanded into video and photography. Her work is informed by her experience emigrating to America from Cuba, and has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and Europe. Her degrees include a BFA from Parsons School of Design and MFA from the School of Visual Arts (SVA). E-mail: [juana13@earthlink.net](mailto:juana13@earthlink.net); <http://homepage.mac.com/juanavaldes>.



**Joseph Nechvatal** is teaching Contemporary Art and History of Art & Technology. He also teaches at SVA in the MFA Computer Arts program. Joseph earned his PhD in philosophy of art and new technology from The Centre for Advanced Inquiry in the Interactive Arts (CAiiA), University of Wales College, UK. Since 1986 he has worked with electronic visual information and computers. His computer-robot assisted paintings and computer software animations are shown regularly in galleries and museums throughout the world. Joseph also writes about art & new technology for numerous publications. E-mail: [jnech@thing.net](mailto:jnech@thing.net); [www.nechvatal.net](http://www.nechvatal.net).



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**Exhibition...continued from page 1**

Rauschenberg, Whitman, Tinguely, Andy Warhol, Robert Breer, and Fujiko Nakaya. Historical films from and about this period will also be screened.

"The Story of E.A.T." will combine personal memories and historical information to create a visual memoir of Klüver's and other's activities to promote collaboration between artists and engineers as a means for artists to incorporate technology into their work and for artists and engineers to play a more active role in many areas of our society. Students interested in working with us on this exhibition, please contact [jharriso@stevens.edu](mailto:jharriso@stevens.edu).



Andy Warhol, 1962, with *Silver Clouds*

**Faculty...continued from page 3**

**Diana Marie Bush** began teaching History of Art at Stevens last fall, and continues this spring with Modern Art History & Theory. Diana hails from Columbia University, where her research on John Heartfield "situates montage practices in the complex network of phenomena specific to the history and criticism of modern art." Diana is also a critic and writer on contemporary art, was respondent and moderator for the conference Gender Topographies at Barnard, and currently, is lecturer on modernism, photography, and contemporary art at the Museum of Modern Art. She holds a PhD (ABD) from Columbia, a BA from Columbia and an MA from the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU. E-mail: [dmb16@columbia.edu](mailto:dmb16@columbia.edu).

**Eliot Loshak**, who teaches Music Business, is an attorney specializing primarily in the field of intellectual property, with emphasis upon the entertainment industry. Shortly after he completed studies at Harvard Law School, he became the vice-president of Business Affairs for CBS Records International.

**Jim Stepleton**, who teaches Music Appreciation I and Elementary Harmony, is an opera composer as well as a specialist in music theory and history. His music has performed in New York at Carnegie Hall, on National Public Radio and on European tour and national tours. In 2003, Jim's full-length opera was given a reading by New York City Opera. His "Serenade For Solo Guitar" won the only prize in an international competition sponsored by Andres Segovia and has been continuously in print for 30 years. Jim has taught at Columbia University, NYU, U. of Maryland, among others.

**SAVE THIS DATE:** April 21, Student Electronic Music Concert in DeBaun, 4 pm, including live visuals projected onscreen.

**UNDERGRADUATE REGISTRATION:** Starts on April 11. New Art & Tech courses include Animation I and Video I.

**OTHER NEWS ... cont'd**

Also in the MIDI class, **David Musial** introduced the students to the incredible software application, Reason, by Propellerhead from Sweden. This program emulates a variety of analog and digital synthesizers. It has 2 sample playback synths, drum machines, digital effects processors including a vocoder, and you can add as many mixers and synths as you have RAM space and CPU speed. Best of all it's cross platform.

**Brian Moriarty** is currently exhibiting his photographs in the Stevens Library through April 17. For those who haven't met Brian yet, he is our very own multi-talented Systems Administrator in Computer Science, who holds a MFA in Photography from Yale and a BFA in Photography from NYU. Brian appeared in the book *25 and Under/Photographers* (WW Norton, 1996) and was the winner of the Alice Kimball English Traveling fellowship from Yale. For more information about Brian's work contact him at [moriarty@cs.stevens.edu](mailto:moriarty@cs.stevens.edu).

For information about our program or to contribute to our next newsletter, contact:

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