

Center for Advanced Visual Studies

Drawing on its historic role as a place where knowledge is created across disciplines, the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) is a short- and long-term artists' residency program and laboratory offering contemporary artists and other practitioners of experimental culture the opportunity to interact and collaborate with the MIT community. The role of CAVS is to provide students, faculty, and researchers at MIT an environment that stimulates their imagination and intuition and that functions as a "potential space" to explore new connections and frictions, collaborations, and disagreements across the boundaries between artistic design processes and scientific and technological research.

Activities

Professor Krzysztof Wodiczko was appointed director of CAVS on July 1, 2003. This year he gave over a dozen lectures and presentations around the United States, in Israel, and in Poland. His work was included in exhibitions at the International Center of Photography (New York City), David Zwirner (a gallery in New York), Phillips Exeter Academy, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and MASS MoCA. His public projection in St. Louis on the Central Library Building in April 2004 received extensive national and international media coverage. Currently he has projects in development in France, Israel, and Spain.

Professor Wodiczko was profiled in *Art Closeup*, a WBGH original art series, and selected to be profiled on *ART 21*, a PBS contemporary art series. Both *Art Journal* and *Agglutinations* (an online journal) featured lengthy interviews with him. The College Art Association presented Prof. Wodiczko with their annual award for a "distinguished body of work" for work developed and exhibited during the previous year. He also received an honorary doctorate from the Maine College of Art.

Fellow Tamiko Thiel exhibited her interactive video installation *Beyond Manzanar* at CAVS. During MIT's spring term, Ms. Thiel gave guest lectures to Glorianna Davenport's Media Lab class MAS.845 Interactive Cinema, Professors Dower and Miyagawa's history class 21H.917J Visualizing Cultures, and Kurt Fendt's humanities class CMS.845 Humanities Go Digital. In June she exhibited work at the Conference Technologies for Interactive Digital Storytelling and Entertainment in Darmstadt, Germany. For her project-in-planning "Re-Constructing the Berlin Wall," she attended the May symposium "On Both Sides of the Wall" in Potsdam, conducted project discussions with her project partner architect Teresa Reuter in Berlin, and met with the Center for Data and Technology Management at the Technical University in Munich. She also interviewed historic preservationists and former members of the East German Opposition. As a result of these discussions, she was able to engage the Berlin Wall Documentation Center in Berlin as a project partner and first venue for the project (scheduled for spring 2006). She is also working to organize a mobile version of the project with MIT's CMS Hyperstudio and the Center for Data and Technology Management at the Technical University in Munich.

Fellow Nell Breyer was awarded an LEF New England General Grant for development and production of the *i:move* installation and live performance series that explores how movement is perceived. It has been exhibited at the MIT Media Lab, the MIT Museum, the DTW Gallery (New York City), and at Yale's A & A Gallery. Excerpts from DTW Gallery's *i:move*—created in collaboration with the Slovenia's Fico Ballet—were broadcast as part of MOOVLab High Definition Programming for VOOM's Cable TV Network (Philadelphia). Additional funding was provided by CAVS, the MIT Media Lab, the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Dance Theater Workshop, and the Serdna Foundation International Suitcase Fund.

Fellow Ioannis Michaloudis, previously a Fulbright scholar, worked with aerogel, the lightest solid in the world, to create floating air sculptures and also used high-power CO₂ infrared lasers for the construction of invisible containers in order to create a cubic cloud. During the past year he worked with a New York theater to produce a play based on the *Odyssey*. He left MIT in November 2003.

Fellow Naoko Tosa exhibited her interactive installation *Inter-Culture Computing: ZENetic* at the MIT Museum and will be showing it at the SIGGRAPH 2004 Emerging Technologies Conference in Los Angeles, California. Ms. Tosa is using *ZENetic* to develop new theories, models, and methods to translate a given culture into a format enabling users from other cultural backgrounds to interact and understand it in culturally appropriate ways.

Fellow Elizabeth Goldring presented *E Y E*, an exhibition of Retina Prints and Poems at Adam's House, Harvard University, as part of the Grolier's Lecture Series. In addition to having a poetry reading at Smith College, she also received an Alumni Lifetime Achievement Medal. Ms. Goldring received NASA funding to research the effectiveness of a "seeing machine" designed to help people with macular degeneration. She had seven Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program students working with her on this project.

Director emeritus Otto Piene is currently preparing two books for publication. The first book, *SKYART 2002*, is based on the SKYART Conference held in Greece in 2002. The second, *CenterBook*, documents 35 years of work at CAVS. He is also participating in exhibitions with major catalogs at Wellesley College (Massachusetts) and Kunsthalle Kiel (Germany), Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Leopold-Hoesch Museum (Germany), the Museum of Modern Art (Croatia), and Palazzo Papesse (Italy), where he also has two new commissioned works, "Light Room Siena" and "Rred Hhorse."

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Stephen Benton, the previous director of CAVS, as well as a founding member of the Media Lab. His untimely death at age 61 has caused a great sense of loss at CAVS, the Media Lab, and the entire MIT community.

Krzysztof Wodiczko
Director
Professor of Architecture

More information about the Center for Advanced Visual Studies can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/cavs>.