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April 29, 2003

Art, Technology Converge at Digital Downtown



"Crossroads" by Annette Weintraub

Images of the towering Empire State Building appear as microbes beneath a microscope. In an interactive kaleidoscope, words and pictures of New York memories and dreams slide past one another. These are some of the works on display in which art meets computer science at [Pace University's](#) new "[Digital Downtown](#)" exhibition at the school's digital art gallery in Lower Manhattan.

Visitors can explore *Infrasonic Soundscape*, *Visual Chaos* and other works using a range of technologies from videos and CD-ROMs to DVDs and interactive web pages -- all of which focus on a downtown theme.

"The work maps visual and aural poetics from the patterns and clutter that result from too many people in too little space," said co-curator Jillian McDonald in a description of the exhibition.

Co-curator Juliet Martin, a Pace art professor, explained that one of the gallery's objectives is to expose students and the community to digital art. "Pace is not just a place to take classes," she adds. "It's helping to revitalize the downtown community by moving the digital art scene into Lower Manhattan." The show's curators selected pieces that have been created over the last ten years for the [New York Digital Salon](#), an organization dedicated to the exhibition, study and promotion of digital art. Featured is work by artists Alexander Heilner, Russet Lederman, Hidekazu Minami, Annette Weintraub, Robert Wright, Amy Youngs, and Jody Zellen.



"NYC Thought Pictures" CD-Rom by Russell Lederman

Salon director Bruce Wands, a third co-curator of the show and a School of Visual Arts professor, describes Pace's digital gallery as part of a "renaissance of new media and digital art now occurring in New York."



"Manhattan Microbes" print by Alexander Heilner

The gallery, located at 163 William Street between Fulton and Ann Streets, is a collaboration of Pace University's [School of Computer Science and Information Systems](#) and the fine arts department. It is also an initiative of the university's Center for Advanced Media (CAM).

"The convergence of art and programming has created demand for people who combine technical and artistic expertise, even if not all of them make careers in fine art," said Francis T. Marchese, a professor of computer science at Pace who is founder and director of CAM. "We want the gallery to be a nexus for the latest ideas in all these fields."

The Digital Downtown exhibition runs until May 25 and is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment (e-mail digitalgallery@pace.edu.)

Images courtesy of the artists.

Digital Discussions

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Panel discussion with the artists

Multipurpose Room, 1 Pace Plaza
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Presentation of computer animation and digital video

Schimmel Center for the Arts, 1 Pace Plaza
Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.

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