

PRESS RELEASE
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(Australia)
Limited**

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incorporating

**The Australian
International
Video Festival**

The Electronic
Media Arts Conference

Scan+ Magazine

**EMA is a non-profit
organisation
representing and
promoting the
electronic arts
in Australia**

VIDEO ART - CHECKING THE FRONTIER

In a bold move from tradition the Australian International Video Festival is taking on a new format in 1994. Under the title of VIDEO ART - CHECKING THE FRONTIER the event will be presented in a Symposium style.

Directed by Electronic Media Arts, the program has been conceived by international guest curator, Mr Erkki Huhtamo. The weekends activities will include an interactive exhibition of video art/games to be housed at the Art Gallery of NSW, a large selection of video and film screenings, including a specially curated program of ride films from all over the world, and two seminar sessions talking around the theme of "Nintendo Killed the Video Star".

Important aspects of the weekends activities will be games and game playing as creativity, and the influence of Japanese advancements in the electronic/digital technologies. In line with this the Symposium will also host Ms Machiko Kusahara who will discuss the state of electronic arts in Japan and act as co-curator on the project.

"Video Art - Checking the Frontier" will be held on 3rd, 4th, 5th June 1994 at the Maritime Museum, Sydney, and the Art Gallery of NSW. For full program details please contact EMA on (02) 552 4220.

For your information:

The Guest curators, Mr Erkki Huhtamo and Ms Machiko Kusahara will be available to give lectures, interviews etc from 30 May - 6th June 1994. See attached biographies.

EMA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Film Commission, the New South Wales Government Film and Television Office, the Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council (the Federal Government's Arts Funding and Advisory body) and the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts.

Erkki Huhtamo: A Short Biography

Erkki Huhtamo (born Helsinki, 1958) received his M.A. from the University of Turku, Finland, in 1987. He lectures about the history of audiovisuality at the University of Industrial Arts, Helsinki, the Universities of Oulu and Turku, and elsewhere. Beside Finland Mr. Huhtamo has lectured in Canada, Australia, Sweden, Hungary, Germany and Japan.

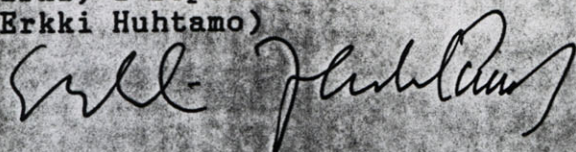
Mr. Huhtamo has edited more than 10 books and written extensively about the cultural history of audiovisuality and interactive media. His writings have been published in Finnish, Swedish, English, French, German, Japanese, Hungarian, Serbo-Croatian, Russian and Polish. He produced the first book about virtual reality in the Finnish language ("The Handbook of the Virtual Voyager", Turku: Lähikuva, 1991). His essay "It is interactive, but is it art?" was featured in the Siggraph 93 Visual Proceedings.

Mr. Huhtamo was the host and script-writer for the TV program Keinomatkalla I-II ("On an Artificial Journey") about computer-based media culture produced by YLE, the Finnish Broadcasting Company in 1992. Mr. Huhtamo is currently both hosting, scriptwriting and directing a program on Japanese media culture, "The Empire of Monitors", produced by YLE and scheduled for January 1994.

Mr. Huhtamo was the chief curator of the MuuMediaFestival, Helsinki and Espoo, 1990-92. He has also curated three international exhibitions of interactive art (Otso Gallery, Espoo, Finland) and the exhibition of Woody and Steina Vasulka for the Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki (1992). He works as adviser on video and electronic arts for the Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki. He was member of the "Machine Culture: The Virtual Frontier" exhibition (Siggraph 93) committee. Currently he is involved in organizing the fifth International Symposium on Electronic Arts (ISEA 94), to be held in Helsinki, August 1994.

Mr. Huhtamo's festival experience includes the following events: European Media Art Festival (Osnabrück, 1988-), Ars Electronica (Linz, 1989-), Imagina (Monte-Carlo, 1992-), Siggraph (Las Vegas, Chicago, Anaheim, 1991-), Rencontres internationales art cinéma/art vidéo/art ordinateur (Paris, 1990), World-Wide Video Festival (Den Haag, 1990-91), Viper 91 (Luzern, 1991), Art Futura (Barcelona, 1991, 1993), The Second Annual Virtual Reality Symposium (Seattle, 1992), Interface Agents Symposium (Boston, MIT, 1992), Berlin International Film Festival (1987-), the Hungarian National Film Festival (Budapest, 1988-), Giornate del cinema muto (Pordenone, 1988-1991) VideoFest Berlin (1988-), London Film Festival (1987-90), TISEA (Sydney, 1992), Experimenta (Melbourne, 1992), Medianale Hamburg (1993).

Turku, 1 September 1993
(Erkki Huhtamo)



Machiko Kusahara

Born in Tokyo.

Graduated from International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo. She majored in mathematics while minored in history of science and also learned computer programming. Later she studied oriental painting under Ung-No Lee.

She has been involved in computer graphics since 1983 as a coordinator, curator and a critic while working as a consultant on computer graphics application in science and multimedia. She ran SIGGRAPH Tokyo Office for four years. In 1990 she founded "Digital Image" with others as the first non-profit organization of digital artists.

Her study has been focused on the evaluation of imaging technology in art and society. Her current work is mainly in promoting technology art and in future planning of museums and exhibitions.

<Membership>

ACM/SIGGRAPH

NICOGRAPH (Art and Entertainment Program Committee Chair)

Information Processing Society of Japan

Japan Association of Image Arts and Sciences

DIGITAL IMAGE Artist Group (Co-founder/Planning Committee Member)

A-Life Research Network

<Major Publications/Editions>

1989 "Computer Graphics Anthology" Bunkensha Publishing

1992 "Computer Graphics Access" Bunkensha Publishing

1992 "CG Artworks" (Edition of Digital Image) Graphic-sha Publishing

<Exhibitions>

1987 VIDEOKUNST (Stockholm, Sweden)

1991 "Digital Image 1991" (Tokyo, Japan)

1991 "TELEMETIER" (Tokyo, Japan)

1991 "Computer Artists on Network" (Tokyo, Japan)

1992 "Digital Image 1992" (Tokyo, Osaka, Japan)

1993 "Digital Image 1993" (Tokyo, Osaka, Japan)

1993 "Digital Image" (Turku, Finland)

<Teaching>

Nippon Electronics College

Aoyama Computer Graphics School Melon

Tokyo Institute of Polytechnics (from April 1994)