

# June

Munro Ferguson  
National Film Board of Canada  
[m.ferguson@nfb.ca](mailto:m.ferguson@nfb.ca)



*June* is a stereoscopic animation installation artwork made by me, and produced by the National Film Board of Canada. The content was created using SANDDE, a technology developed by IMAX Corp. which allows an artist to draw in space by hand. This is a new art form, which combines the attributes of drawing and sculpture, but also incorporates movement and sound.

*June* is a moving abstract picture in 3D space made in memory of Canadian artist and filmmaker, Joyce June Wieland, who died in 1998. Joyce was my friend and teacher, and June is my attempt to convey what it was like to know her. Part 1, Alzheimer, is about her illness and death. Part 2, Memory, is my remembrance of what she was like in life. In her prime, Joyce's mind was a fountain of creative imagination. One idea after another would burst out of her, each new one opening up a world of possibilities. This feeling is what is communicated through imagery, reminiscent of the abstract-expressionist paintings she made in the late 1950's and early 60's. Though she is gone, Joyce continues to be an example and inspiration.

The animation of June was created from drawings in space made with SANDDE, (Stereoscopic Animation Drawing Device). Using SANDDE is similar to drawing on paper except the lines are not confined to a two-dimensional surface. The artist moves a wand within a small magnetic field. The wand has a small receiver on it that is capable of detecting its own position within the field. The master computer interprets the moving wand position as a line in 3-space and generates left and right eye views. These views are projected in real time on a screen, which the artist is looking at through 3D glasses, and the lines appear to float in the air in front of the artist. The end result combines the warm familiarity of hand drawing with the sensational and unique experience of three-dimensionality.

I hope that drawing in space will evolve as an important new way for people to express themselves, as other important developments in the history of art have. Like the inventions of oil painting and photography which have enlarged the range of visual experiences and visual language available to artists, space drawing is a new medium that has the potential to push the boundary of human consciousness a little further; which is what art really tries to do.

