

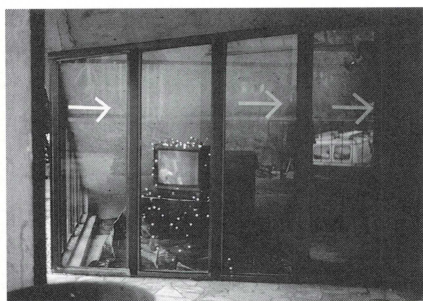
Electro-Healing

JOANN GILLERMAN

California College of Arts and Crafts

Electro-Healing is a collaborative interdisciplinary interactive and virtual healing environment. It deals with communication and new technologies. As a group, we decided to work with universal concepts that could accommodate a changing multi-cultural world view, as well as deal with political, social, ethical, and aesthetic concerns. The collaborators of this installation represent a diverse group of people of varied ages and ethnic backgrounds from at least four different countries and cultures from around the world. The text is multi-lingual.

Healing, our common ground, has been translated loosely and covers a broad spectrum of ideas. It has been personally



Hardware

- 3 Amiga Computer systems w/peripherals (A2500 w/multiple serial card, A1000 or A2000 w/A-square LIVE digitizer and one genlock)
- Memory requirements = 4-8 Mbytes RAM
- Videodisk player w/ serial port (LDP 1000)
- MIDI synthesizer
- Video switcher
- Video camera w/tripod
- 7 color monitors for audience display and interaction
- Stereo sound system (amp, preamp, speakers and small 2-4 channel audio mixer)

interpreted by the individual contributors of each of the eight different individual segments comprising the entire interactive installation. These segments range in scope and include: "Basic Black"—a game commenting on racism that is designed for white people who have not experienced the relentless humiliation and insults that many black people experience on a daily basis; "Kundalini and Baseball"—an interactive experience of virtual spirituality and transcendence through seven chakra energy centers as the stimulated Kundalini Serpent rises up and is finally released through the thousand-petal lotus of Bindu; "Aura Massage"—healing and channeling through Barbie Dolls; message therapy; healing powers of music and water; and others.

The interactivity of the audience is of primary concern and an important factor around which the environment was designed and without which the installation does not function. The individual segments are accessed through virtually touching any one of the eight "active trigger points" that appear as icons surrounding a circular mandala image on the main display screen. Each section allows a moving video image from laser disk to accompany and superimpose with the computer graphics onto the display screens.

The process used to determine the final design of the event included many group discussions and considerations. We decided on "healing" as a concept to which we all could relate in some form. Background, political/social biases, and personal statements could be expressed through this concept. We went on many field trips to see relevant media-based works including performances, installations, and exhibits to provide a broader perspective and more "enlightened" input for our technical and aesthetic concerns. We also invited several visiting artists who use interactive technologies and virtual reality into our class for discussion and

viewed their work. After participating, watching, discussing, and examining many different interactive works over a semester's time, we collectively decided to carefully consider the quality and method of interaction. We wanted to get the interaction off of the computer keyboard or mouse, opting for a more natural interface of real space and movement through time. It should be easy, fun, comfortable, and able to accommodate more than one person at a time.

To this end, the Experimental Media Class at the California College of Arts and Crafts has designed and produced the Electro-Healing Installation—a virtual environment that we believe is cross-cultural, deals with some relevant political and social issues in a refreshing way, and is technologically unique and friendly for its participants.

Contact

JoAnn Gillerman
California College of Arts and Crafts
950 61st Street
Oakland, CA 94608
510.654.2880

Contributors

- Heidi Arnesen: "Aura Message" (channeling with Barbie Dolls)
- JoAnn Gillerman, Director of Installation, Instructor of the Experimental Media Class, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA: "Kundalini and Baseball"
- Susanne Hewitt: "Eye"
- Beth Katz, Shem Slobin: "Drums"
- Jayson Lamb, Leila Godowsky: "Taboos"
- Barbara Lee Federle, Renate Buchgraber, Jeffrey Darby: "Hand"
- James Redd, David Pounds: "Basic Black"
- Rob Terry: provided custom software used in the installation
- Jonas Thorvaldsson: "Time"
- California College of Arts and Crafts

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