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a contemporary art space

tenth anniversary 1995-2005

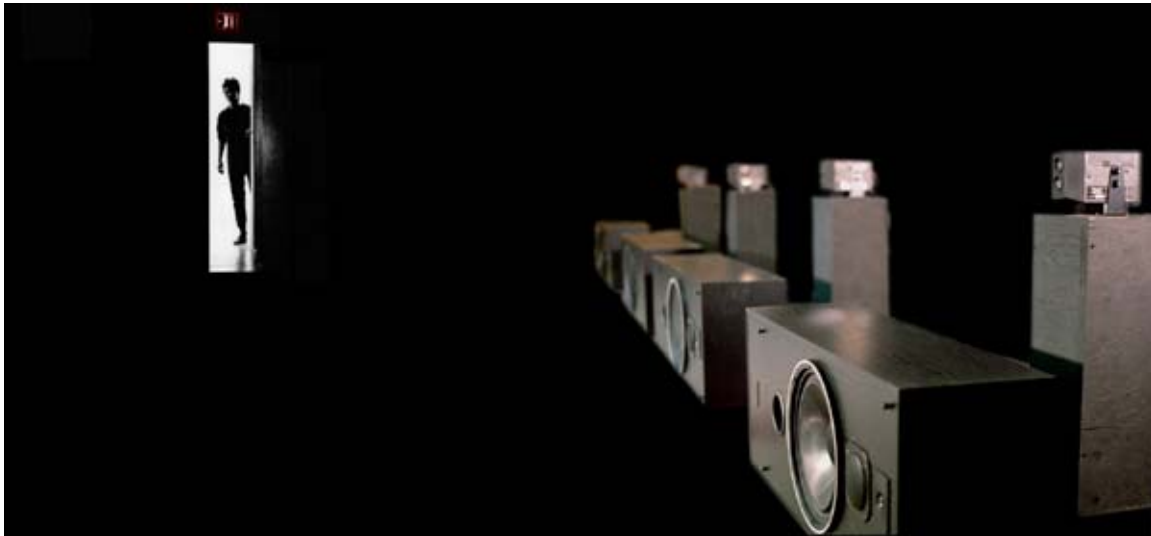
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Contact: Anne Wrinkle, Press Office
Tel: 505.989.1199 x 22 / Fax: 505.989.1188
wrinkle@sitesantafe.org

SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS DON RITTER
September 24-December 31, 2005

Santa Fe, NM — SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present an exhibition of two installations by Don Ritter from September 24-December 31, 2005. There will be a media preview with the artist on Thursday, September 22, from 11 am-12 noon. There will be a free public opening on Friday, September 23, from 5-7 pm.



Don Ritter, *Intersection* (1993), Interactive sound installation, 42x30 feet. Photo: Ros Ribas and Don Ritter

The exhibition will be made up of two installations, *Intersection* (1993) and *Vox Populi* (2004). To enter an installation by artist Don Ritter is to become an active participant in a technological emulation of a tangible and somewhat familiar experience. Ritter's installation places the audience in the active position of accomplice, making it as much a part of the medium as the technological supports that make the installation work.

Intersection is an interactive sound simulation of vehicles driving along four lines of traffic. Occupying a darkened space, the installation is triggered and completed by the "intrusion" and interaction of the human participant. Through use of infra-red sensors and feedback technologies, the movement and placement of the listener within the space alters the sound (and therefore the presumed motion and bearing) of the

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oncoming car. A person entering the installation simultaneously transforms and triggers it, by framing himself within the trajectory of oncoming vehicle(s).

In *Vox Populi*, you stand at a podium facing a video projection of a crowd of people. The people in the video encourage you to speak at the podium, equipped with a microphone and a teleprompter displaying the text of historical political speeches, and they respond vociferously to the speech you deliver.



Don Ritter, *Vox Populi*, Interactive video/sound installation, 2004, 42x50 feet, Photo: Don Ritter.

Although *Vox Populi* is comprised of various new media technologies, the primary feature of the work is an opportunity for anyone to control the masses through public speeches, an activity typically limited to political, business, and religious leaders. The texts on the teleprompter are historical speeches from influential political leaders, including John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr, and George W. Bush Jr. Responding to the *leader's* vocal characteristics, the custom interactive system controls speech selection, the teleprompter, and selection of crowd sequences. Although leaders are free to speak what they want through the microphone, most obediently read the speeches provided. Both the *leader* and the crowd are controlled by technology.

Art & Culture

On **Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 6 pm**, Don Ritter will present ***The Ethics of Aesthetics***, which will outline the fundamental decisions involved in the creation and experience of new media artworks, and will address how compositional decisions and aesthetic judgments are influenced by apparent and unapparent factors. Topics within the presentation include the processes, influences, and consequences of aesthetic judgment, and the ethics of new media.

Don Ritter □

Since 1986, Ritter's large-scale interactive installations, performances, and single-channel videos have been exhibited in North America, Europe, and Asia. He holds degrees in electronics engineering, fine arts, psychology and a Master of Visual Studies from MIT. Ritter has worked professionally with electronic media technologies since 1979 as a designer for Nortel, an Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Concordia University, Montreal, and since 1996 as a Professor of Art and Design at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. He is represented in New York City by Jack the Pelican. □

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. SITE Santa Fe Hours: Wed–Sat, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM. Museum admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for students, teachers and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public with paid admission and are also regularly scheduled on Fridays at 6 pm, and Saturdays & Sundays at 2 pm. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information. □

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VISUALS AVAILABLE □

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