William Latham: Mutator 2

Preview: Friday, 31 October, 5.30-7.30pm
Artist's Talk by William Latham: Thursday, 13 November, 5.30-6.30pm
Exhibition: 1 November – 31 January, Mon-Sat 12-4pm

Please note the exhibition will be closed during winter holidays from 20 December – 4 January, dates inclusive.

Centrespace, Visual Research Centre, is part of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design and is located on the lower floors of Dundee Contemporary Arts, 152 Nethergate, Dundee.

Exhibitions at DJCAD is delighted to present the first solo exhibition in Scotland by William Latham, a pioneering figure of Computer Art in the UK since the 1980s. The exhibition includes Latham’s interactive video works, drawings and prints that explore and embody evolutionary processes, physical and virtual space.

Central to the exhibition is a three screen interactive video projection Mutator 2 Triptych (2013), using software modelled on the processes of evolution, it blends organic imagery and computer animation. Through computer touch screens, visitors are able to shape and mutate vibrant animated forms in real time. Starting with a simple horn-like shape, Mutator 2 Triptych introduces random ‘mutations’ in order to generate increasingly complex three-dimensional creations that resemble fantastical, futuristic organisms, transforming the gallery into a fascinating world of hybrid forms, a process Latham describes as “evolution driven by aesthetics”.

Mutator 2 simultaneously highlights a series of early drawings and prints by Latham. Latham’s intricate drawings show an imagined evolution of complex forms developed following a simple set of transformation rules such as ‘beak, bulge, stretch and twist’. Although in contrast visually and experientially to the colourful computer graphics of Mutator 2 Triptych, these early works share Latham’s on-going concern with systems and process to underline the motives of aesthetics and scientific development inherent in his practice.

The exhibition is the first major solo exhibition of Latham’s work in Scotland and is programmed as part of the Dundee Science Festival 2014. An Artist’s Talk by William Latham with Introduction by Professor Nigel Johnson will take place on 13 November, 5.30-6.30pm. This event encourages further insight into the inter-relation between the
fields of art, science and computer science technology as well as providing a closer examination of Latham’s practice.

Originally trained as an artist at The Ruskin School of Drawing (Oxford University) and at the Royal College of Art, Latham moved into the computing industry and became a Research Fellow at The IBM UK Scientific Centre in Winchester in 1987. Between 1994 and 2003, Latham founded and led the leading games developer Computer Artworks Ltd who produced popular games such as The THING (Playstation2, Xbox and PC) for Universal Studios, which became a Number 1 hit in the UK and Germany. From 2005 to 2006 Latham was Professor of Creative Technology at Leeds Metropolitan University and in 2007 he was appointed Professor of Computer Art at Goldsmiths (University of London). Latham was co-author with Stephen Todd of the book “Evolutionary Art and Computers” published by Academic Press which is still recognised as a key work in this area.


**Notes to Editors:**

1. From 1987 to 1994 *William Latham* worked for IBM in their Advanced Computer Graphics and Visualisation Division at IBM Hursley near Winchester, and his Mutation work achieved world wide recognition at SIGGRAPH and other events and a number of IBM patents were published. He was co-author with Stephen Todd of the book “Evolutionary Art and Computers” published by Academic Press, which is still recognised as a key work in this area. His organic artworks and films were shown worldwide in major touring exhibitions of the UK, Germany, Japan and Australia.

   William was CEO of computer games developer Computer Artworks Ltd from 1994 to 2003, hit games produced included The THING (Playstation2, Xbox and PC) which sold in excess of one million units worldwide, and was Number 1 hit in the UK and Germany. The Thing was published by Vivendi Universal in USA and Europe, and by Konami in Japan and the Far East. (The Thing game was the sequel to the cult John Carpenter Film The THING starring Kurt Russell).

   In 2004, recognising the ongoing increase in games budgets and increasing new investment from financial organisations outside the games industry William founded Games Audit Ltd. Games Audit Ltd is a project management and audit operation for the games industry. Clients include Ingenious, Add Partners, IDGVE.

   From 2005 to 2006 William Latham was Professor of Creative Technology at Leeds Metropolitan University and a Research Fellow of Goldsmiths College (University of London).

   In 2007 William was appointed Professor of Computing at Goldsmiths. He continues to remain CEO of Games Audit.

   Since moved back into academia in 2007 becoming Professor in Computer Art at Goldsmiths, Latham has collaborated with Professor Frederic Fol Leymarie, and been working again with Stephen Todd after a gap of 13 years. Recent work has included re-applying the old FormGrow and Mutator systems rewritten in Java in the world of protein folding and scientific visualisation working with Lawrence Kelly at Imperial College.

   This process led to Mutator 2 Triptych, 2013, which is one of the key works in this exhibition. For more information see: [http://latham.mutator.com/](http://latham.mutator.com/) and [www.doc.gold.ac.uk/~mas03whl/](http://www.doc.gold.ac.uk/~mas03whl/)

   William has an MA from The Royal College of Art and a BA from Oxford University.

2. The exhibition and the Artist’s Talk on 13 November are programmed as part of the Dundee Science Festival 2014 in Dundee. Dundee Science Festival aims to celebrate Dundee as a city of science and innovation and establish science as an aspect of culture, alongside arts and heritage and runs from 1-16 November 2014. For more information on Dundee Science Festival 2014 please see: [http://www.dundeesciencefestival.org/](http://www.dundeesciencefestival.org/)

3. Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design is part of University of Dundee.

4. For further information please see: [http://www.dundee.ac.uk/djcad/exhibitions/exhibitions/william-latham](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/djcad/exhibitions/exhibitions/william-latham) If you have any questions or would like to request images please contact Katie Reid at k.reid@dundee.ac.uk or call Exhibitions on 01382 385330.

5. The preview, talks and exhibitions at Centrespace, VRC are free and anyone can attend.

Centerspace, Visual Research Centre. VRC is part of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design and is located on the lower floors of Dundee Contemporary Arts, 152 Nethergate, Dundee.

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