

Elise Baldwin / Kadet Kuhne

Holding Patterns & Collective Memories

Friday, December 4, 2009 — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

presented in association with Overlap.org

Drawing from each artist's extensive work in installation and music composition, the live audio/video performances of Elise Baldwin and Kadet Kuhne create unique cinematic experiences through the application of real-time compositional techniques. With an interest in the transmitted electronic signal (via sensors, circuitry and neurons), Kuhne uses the medium to explore themes of communication, control and confinement in her works *Fight or Flight* and *Infinite Delay*. Equally engaged with innovative technology, Elise Baldwin's works—*Theatre of Plants* and *The Body Farm*—consider the relationships between the natural world and the evolution of technology and themes of collective memory and history. Also screening: *And the Sun Flowers* by Mary Helena Clark and *Paradise Falls, New Mexico* by Christina Battle. (Steve Polta)

paradise falls, new mexico (2004) by Christina Battle; 16mm dual projection, b&w, sound, 5 minutes, prints from the maker

“A lone man packing a gun; themes of vengeance; justice; masculinity; the culminating formulaic shoot out. These are the ingredients for the ultimate Western. With outlaws, lawmen, breath-taking settings and an alluring simplicity, the Western presumes to represent the past, however mythical or imagined.

“Contrasting ghost towns from the true west with popular images from Hollywood westerns, *paradise falls, new mexico* constructs an imaginary past. Hand processing and emulsion lifts serve to strip away the myths behind the western footage, challenging the history they misleadingly represent.” (Christina Battle)

Theatre of Plants by Elise Baldwin; digital video, color sound, tape form the maker

“This new audiovisual work uses early time-lapse botanical films and fragments of old film leader found at the National Archive as its primary visual sources. I was interested in using the inherent material characteristics of both sources, the life-cycle narratives of the botanical films, and the ‘interstitial’ pieces of leaders and countdowns to create a piece that is microcosmic in scale yet expansively metaphoric in its examination of time, growth and decay.” (Elise Baldwin)

Fight or Flight (2009) by Kadet Kuhne; digital video, color, sound, tape form the maker

“Hold your breath for this tempestuous ride through bondage, suspension and the power of the mind. Electrical impulses produce reactionary states in this adrenaline-packed spectacle. *Fight or Flight* is a continuation of my *Holding Pattern* video series that centers around the theme of resistance, control and surrender. *Fight or Flight* features a bound figure in flight, held in position by an unrevealed source. This unknown source points to whether or not the figure is in a consensual position with the goal of exploring what one may feel bound or liberated by, and what choices may be involved in those conditions. The universality of experiencing internal and external limitations, discomfort and anxiety in one's own skin and the trappings of mind contrasted by determination, liberation of spirit and the power of thought are explored.” (Kadet Kuhne)

The Trial of Socrates (2009) by Kadet Kuhne; digital video, color, sound, tape from the maker

“Socrates stands in the court giving the defense of his life. He is accused of corrupting the youth and of atheism, both charges easily disproved, but his real crime is living a life on his own terms and not allowing anyone to get away with hypocrisy. He argued that once we recognize what is truly good, we will act in accord with that knowledge. He also firmly believed that the cosmos is grounded in goodness, hence a good person cannot suffer unduly and death is not something to be feared. Even though the death penalty is assured, he spends his last moments in public pointing out the path to a life worth living. *The Trial of Socrates* portrays the end of his final speech, just after he had been condemned to death by the citizens of Athens, his hometown. Two thousand five hundred years later we still look to his words for inspiration.” (Kadet Kuhne)

—intermission—

And the Sun Flowers (2008) by Mary Helena Clark; video, color, sound, 5 minutes, tape from the maker

“Henry James had his figure in the carpet, Da Vinci found faces on the wall. Within this Baltimore wallpaper: a floral forest of hidden depth and concealment, the hues and fragrance of another era. Surface decoration holds permeable planes, inner passages. There emerges a hypnotic empyrean flower, a solar fossil a speaking anemone, of paper, of human muscle, of unknown origin, delivering an unreasonable message of rare tranquility.” (Mark McElhatten)

Infinite Delay (2007) by Kadet Kuhne; digital video, color, sound, 25 minutes, tape from the maker

Live score by Kadet + Mem1

“*Infinite Delay* explores the subtleties of tension that exist between surrender and resistance through an unconventional, experiential narrative. The captivating underwater images of a restrained subject present a dialectic—possibly depicting someone who is being forced to wait, or alternatively representing a subject actively engaged in the erotics of waiting. The voiceless figure in this mysterious subterranean atmosphere surrenders itself, and all questions of identity and placement are dissolved into a virtual suspension of absolute definition. The result is a blurring of lines—between the inner and outer world, self and other, and past and present.” (Kadet Kuhne)

The Body Farm by Elise Baldwin; digital video, color, sound, 15 minutes, tape from the maker

“This intermedia piece is the result of musings on the circular nature of memory, and the decomposition and inscription of physical memory and desire over time.” (Elise Baldwin)

*Raised on a farm in Idaho, **Elise Baldwin** now resides in San Francisco. Active in the experimental music and electronic art community, she focuses on solo intermedia performance, a/v installation and collaborative music ventures. Her work revolves around themes of collective memory, as well as intersections between the natural world and the technological, often using archival sources. She holds a degree in Film and Video production, as well as an MFA in Electronic Music from Mills College. When not reading compulsively in the bathtub, E. can be found creating aurally hazardous byproducts in her studio or building software instruments. www.clattertrap.com*

***Kadet Kuhne** is a media artist whose work includes video, installation and music composition. As an award-winning filmmaker she has numerous shorts that have screened worldwide including *Infinite Delay*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and her most recent film, *Fight or Flight*, which premiered at the Resonant Forms festival at LACE Gallery. Her installations involve a combination of motion detector sensors utilizing custom software in *Jitter*, single or multiple channels and online virtual space, often exploring themes of communication, control and confinement. Kadet's compositions twist signal processing, FM synthesis and neurological impulses into experimental electronic ambiances that aim to make your cilia vibrate in curious patterns. www.tektonicshift.com*