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Electronic images available upon request.

KURT HENTSCHLAGER PREMIERES AUDIOVISUAL PROCEDURAL INSTALLATION
AT WOOD STREET GALLERIES:

ZEE[RANGE]

October 3 – December 31, 2008



PITTSBURGH, PA – Wood Street Galleries, a project of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, presents the world premiere of new work by New York-based Austrian artist Kurt Hentschlager: *ZEE[RANGE]*, October 3-December 31, 2008. In this exhibition, Hentschlager creates an immersive environment of sight and sound reflecting on the nature of human perception and the accelerated impact of new technologies on both individual and collective consciousness. The opening exhibit coincides with the Cultural Trust's quarterly Gallery Crawl from 5:30-9 p.m. on Friday, October 3. An artist talk will be held on Saturday, October 4, at 1 p.m.

Trained as a fine artist, Hentschlager began to exhibit his work in 1983, building surreal machine-objects and then video, computer animation and sound works. Between 1992 and 2003 he worked collaboratively as a part of the duo Granular-Synthesis. Employing large-scale projected images and drone like sound-scapes, his performances confronted the viewer on both a physical and emotional level, overwhelming the audience with sensory stimulation.

Hentschlager is a recipient of numerous prizes and large scale commissions. He has represented Austria at the 2001 *Venice Biennial* and has shown his work internationally for two decades. Selected presentations include the Millennium Museum, Beijing; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Anchorage (Creative Time), New York; MAC - Musee d'Art Contemporain, Montreal; MAK - Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul; *Ars Electronica Festival*, Linz; ICC Inter-Communication-Center, Tokyo; Fondation Beyeler, Basel; and Palacio de Bella Artes, Mexico City.

His recent performance, *FEED*, premiered at the 2005 Venice Theatre Biennial and is currently touring. The procedural installation *KARMA/cell* was commissioned in 2006 by Le Fresnoy, Studio National des Arts Contemporains, France.

ZEE

Immersive Environment

Artificial Fog, Stroboscopes, Pulse Lights and Surround Sound, 2008

ZEE is a "mind-scape" in which artificial fog and stroboscopic light fully obscure the physical installation space. Based on the research and findings with FEED, the performance, ZEE is expanding on composing with multiple interfering strobe lights amidst fog and the effects those have on a human perception and decoding apparatus: the brain. A surround sound-scape synchronizes to interference phenomena - of what could be described as a psychedelic architecture of pure light.

"The result is an immersive environment of flickering light in which the 'real' physical world mutates into a primordial soup of pulsing sound, mist and colored light. It is both terrifying and transportive. We are in fact physiologically experiencing 'sublime light,' a light that is truly psychedelic. This is the world as viewed by a dying robot clone from the inside of a Turner landscape painting," writes artist Claudia Hart in an essay on ZEE.

RANGE (World Premiere, October 2008)

Range is a generative audiovisual installation fluctuating between abstract and realistic forms.

The work unfolds in an extremely limited virtual space, in which three-dimensional characters are stuck in place, with barely any room to move, appearing as one ambiguous mass. A kind of shadow play emerges, with both gradual and also abrupt changes over time, in both tone and mood. The sound track of *Range*, synchronizes to the visual drama and can best be described as colored drone.

<http://www.hentschlager.info/>

Located at 601 Wood Street above the T-Station in downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the Galleries are FREE and open to the public Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, call Wood Street Galleries at (412) 471-5605 or visit www.woodstreetgalleries.org.

Support for Wood Street Galleries has been provided by the Howard Heinz Endowment and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Additional support provided by the Port Authority of Allegheny County and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Also on view:

Make, Shift, Home

SPACE, 812 Liberty Avenue

Through October 11

Co-curated by Mario Marzan and Sharmila Venkatasubban; Participating Artists: Mike Wille, Blithe Riley, Roxana Perez-Mendez, Ivelisse Jimenez, Mario Marzan, Patricia Pernandez, Diana Behl, Jeff, Mueller, David Tinapple

Wild Man's World

707 Penn Gallery

October 3 - December 31, 2008

New woodblock prints and drawings by Paul Roden and Valerie Lueth of Tugboat Printshop.

Dreams Inside Reality

709 Penn Gallery

October 3 - November 22, 2008

Work by Leslie Ansley