

KINETIC PAINTING: REAL TIME IMPROVISED MULTIMEDIA

Samia Halaby, Nathaniel Bobbitt*, Sherman Walter Wright

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"Our performance will be live painting movements with sound movements. Samia Halaby plays the keyboard to create a Kinetic Painting."

The instrument is a computer using a program which Halaby wrote for herself. Visual projection enlarges the image for an audience. She is accompanied by electronic musicians Nathaniel Bobbitt and Sherman Walter Wright.

Bobbitt's hybrid flute sounds naturally while Wright uses MIDI for the Ensonique EPS. All three artists have an artistic history in combining sound and image.

We have always talked about motion in painting but traditionally this is implied and not actual motion. Computer technology allows us to create kinetic paintings much as Alexander Calder was able to do in sculpture with his mobiles. The things we see create sound as they move. Thus cohering sound and visual motion in one art medium becomes a better way to describe reality.

Samia Halaby was born in Jerusalem, Palestine, in 1936. Her art education took place in midwestern universities soon after her family emigrated to the Americas in 1951. Her work has been exhibited internationally. In New York City she has had one-person exhibitions at the following galleries: Spectrum, Susan Caldwell, Marilyn Pearl, 22 Wooster and Tossan-Tossan. Her group exhibitions include Kunsternes Hus Oslo (Norway), Tecero Bienal de la Habana (Cuba). Her work can be found in many museums including the Guggenheim Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Beginning in 1985 she began exploring digital and electronic media for painting. She has written a program which allows her to perform KINETIC PAINTING in collaboration with musicians. Her recent performances include the Brooklyn Museum (1994), 14TH SCAN'94 FESTIVAL at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, and at the POETRY PROJECT in New York City (1995).

She has been active for over eighteen years as a professor of art. She began her teaching career at the University of Hawaii. She has also had the distinction to be on the faculty of Yale University for ten years. Since leaving Yale she has been invited to many universities as a visiting lecturer. Her publications include *Leonardo*. Her recent participation at electronic art conferences includes the ISEA.

Nathaniel Bobbitt is an independent researcher in extended performance technique, performer vision, and cognition. As a flutist he has given presentations at the National Flute Association Convention '94, represented Spain in the UNESCO Tribune for Composers '94 with a variety of other performances in Spain, Italy, U.S., and Canada. He has currently been invited to present papers/demonstrations at the 5th Biennial on Art and Technology (USA), 2nd International Conference on Acoustical and Musical Research '95 Ferrara (Italy). He has also been an artist in residence at the Studio for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University.