



Berkeley Video artist Steve Beck with his Video Weavings, among works of his other video and electronic art to be shown at:

The Art, Technology and Culture Colloquium

Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 7:30 PM

160 Kroeber Hall, University of California, Berkeley

Web: <http://atc.berkeley.edu/>

Steve Beck:

From Pre-Digital to Post Digital: Alive and Analog!

Four Decades of Electronic Artworks

Abstract:

Steve Beck postulates that we are entering a "post-digital" era in which tools for image making, sound, music, and communications are mature and ubiquitous. How do we use these tools wisely, and what might be their implications and consequences? What becomes of visual language, sensory and optimal perception? Will diffusion of analog motifs result? For Beck, creative necessity propels artistic realizations and explorations via hybrid electronic technologies.

Beck's artistic and technical innovations in luminous, dynamic, emitted light span his transformation from the analog world of the 1960's to today. Beck's work has investigated visual tools and visual language, archetypal modalities, internal imagery, spiritual technology and compositional structures in video, music, animation, light sculptures and games.

Beck will show excerpts from his body of work, ranging from early work in electronic neon sculptures with the 1968 charter Chicago chapter of Experiments in Art and Technology, to video compositions such as "Union," an allegorical portrayal of internal bodily energies, and performances of "Illuminated Music" created on his invention, the Beck Direct Video Synthesizer. Also presented will be studies of dynamic, magic square color matrix sequencing in Video Weavings, analog video fractals in a music video for Jimi Hendrix, Ambient Video sculptures created in Japan, which were commissioned by H.I.H. Prince Tomohito of Masaka, Japan, and recent HDTV "Solaris Series" Videon video painting studies of real time variant, dynamic atmospheric optical colorations of Pacific Coast sunsets and sunrises.

Also to be shown is a "sneak preview" from NOOR, a new work in progress based on animation of classical Islamic and Middle Eastern geometric design patterns.

www.stevebeck.tv

Biography

Steve Beck's ongoing investigations in electronic art blend video, light, music, sculpture, engineering and composition in evolving permutations and cinematic visual probes. His work has been shown in The American Century Centennial and other exhibitions at The Whitney Museum, shown as part of the video collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and has also been exhibited in Japan, Italy, Germany, Caracas, Zagreb, Mexico, New York and San Francisco in public museums, galleries, theaters and private collections. Beck's video synthesis compositions have been internationally broadcast on PBS, RAI, BBC, WDR, NHK, CBC and other TV networks.

Beck's "Illuminated Music" video performance was most recently exhibited at the Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and the Los Angeles MOCA in "Visual Music" (2005) and at the Pompidou Center, Paris, in "Son e Lumiere" (2004). He was part of the "Videospace" retrospective of the PBS National Center for Experiments in Television, curated by Steve Seid at the Berkeley Art Museum (2000).

He is currently a Visiting Fellow, Technology Artist in Residence, Distinguished Mackay Lecturer, and Executive in Residence, Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology in the College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley.

Stephen Beck,

Selected Citations, Honors and Awards:

Outstanding Alumnus Award 2003

**University of California, Berkeley, College of Engineering,
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science**

National Endowment for the Arts, Video Artist, 1970, 1975*

American Film Institute, Video Artist Grant, 1973*

The Rockefeller Foundation, Video Artist Grant, 1977

Prix Italia Special Award for “Union” in Milan, Italy, 1978

CINE Gold Eagle, 1976, for Union

**SIGGRAPH Animation Special Award, 1985, for “The Lone Breaker”
cartoon, created with custom software and video hardware on the Apple
II personal computer.**

Academic Positions:

Visiting Fellow, College of Engineering, UC Berkeley, 2005, 2006

Executive in Residence, UC Berkeley

Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology, 2006

Technology Artist in Residence, UC Berkeley, 2005, 2006

- **US Government grants were fully repaid, with a profit to the United States Treasury, in the 1980’s, via my income taxes!**

Steve Beck Selected Exhibitions of Video and Electronic Art
“History of Video Art in California” The Getty Center, LA, 2008

“Soundwaves” Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla 2007

“Ocularis” Brooklyn, New York, 2006

“Visual Music” Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum, 2005

“Visual Music” MOCA Los Angeles, 2005

“Son e Lumiere” Pompidou Center, Paris, 2004

“Conversations with Contemporary Artists” MOMA, New York, 2002

“American Century” The Whitney Museum of American Art, 2000

“Kwang-Ju Biennale” Kwang-Ju, Korea, 1995

“Ars Electronica” Pioneers of Electronic Art, Linz, Austria, 1992

“ARTEC 91” Art and Technology, Nagoya, Japan, 1991

“National Video Art Festival” Washington, DC 1984

“Open Circuits” Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1974

“The Electric Concert” Dallas, Texas, 1972

“Videola” Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, 1972

“Video Synthesis” Berkeley Art Museum, 1971

“!” A Rock Opera. Univ. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, 1970

“Prextephia” Video Synthesis Performance, U of I, 1969

“Sal-Mar” Music and Video Synthesis, Art Institute of Chicago, 1969

Stephen Beck – Selected National Broadcast Television of Video Art

NHK, Tokyo, Japan, MONDO 2000 and Cyberspace, 1991

**PBS-TV “Video Visionaries” WNET New York, 1976
Video Weavings, Anima, Union**

**PBS-TV “Videospace Electronic Notebooks” KQED, 1974
Conception, Methods, Cycles**

“SCAN” 1972, KQED-TV, San Francisco “Illuminated Music 1” with live interview of Beck by journalist Joe Russin. This live, on the air broadcast, includes a live performance by Stephen Beck, playing his Beck Direct Video Synthesizer to the music “Like It Is” by Yusef Lateef. The transmission was directly connected to Beck’s video synthesizer, with 50,000 watts of power transmitted on Channel 9, 187.25 Mhz, fully NTSC FCC broadcast technical standards compliant. This is the only known time that a video artist performed a video synthesizer directly to broadcast on live TV.

PBS-TV “American Dreams” KQED-TV, 1971,

(other broadcasts between 1976 – 2007 to be filled in – there were many in Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Japan, Venezuela, Canada....