

Boxing Rants

By G.H. Hovagimyan

Abstract

I propose an interactive performance work using the Xbox Kinect camera. The performance consists of two parts. First I will create a Pure Data programming patch that is controlled by the Kinect camera. This patch will have a database of files consisting of video and sound clips shot as rant/rap performances. I intend to use various boxing (fight) exercises such as punching the speed bag, skipping rope, and punching the heavy bag during the shooting of the videos. The reference is to the Hollywood cliché of fight movies. The rants are part of an ongoing series of word/language performance works I have been doing since 1978. I will also incorporate audio clips gleaned from various boxing games on the web, special affects sounds etc.

The other part will consist of a live performance with video projection. For the performance I propose to do shadow boxing. My movements will trigger the various files projected on a backdrop and/or played through a sound system. I've chosen boxing as a controlled movement that allows for choreography. The rants are language-driven loops that create repetitive poetic overlays and juxtapositions. By using the Kinect camera as a controller these files can be triggered through various movements such as punching or bobbing and weaving. The intention is to create a sort of kinesthetic linguistic performance.

Additionally, I propose a lecture/talk called, The History of Ranting. This would present examples from different rant performances I have done in the past giving historical context.

Biographical Statement

G.H. Hovagimyan is an experimental artist working in a variety of forms. He was one of the first artists in New York to start working with the Internet in the early nineties. His work ranges from new media and hypertext works to digital performance art, video art, photography and multi-media installations.

His works have been exhibited at MoMA, Mass MoCA, The Whitney Museum, The New Museum, The Walker Art Center, Jeu De Paume, MAC Marseille, MAC Lyon, Pompidou Center, Lincoln Center, ICA The Clocktower, The Kitchen, The Alternative Museum, Eyebeam Art & Technology, List Visual Arts Center, La

Gaite Du Lyrique, Stuttgart Kunstverein, Steim Institute, the Moscow Center for Contemporary Art, Postmasters Gallery, Pace Digital Gallery

He has also exhibited works in major festivals and art fairs including; Art Basel Miami, Pulse Miami, Art Cologne, Split Film Festival, Conflux Festival, Video Dumbo, Scope Art Fair, Frieze Art Fair, Avignon Numerique, The Documenta, Interferences 2nd International Festival of Urban Multimedia Arts, Les Musiques, Marseille and Prix Ars Electronica 98 where he won an award for his collaborative work with Peter Sinclair.

Recent awards include: LMCC Governor's Island Residency - 2010, Plazaville - 2009 commission of New Radio and Performing Arts, Inc. for its Turbulence web site made possible with funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, 2003 fellowship from Experimental Television Center, 2003 TAM Digital Media Commissions, 2002 Artists Fellowship from Franklin Furnace, 2002 pilot artist in residence program from Eyebeam, NYC.