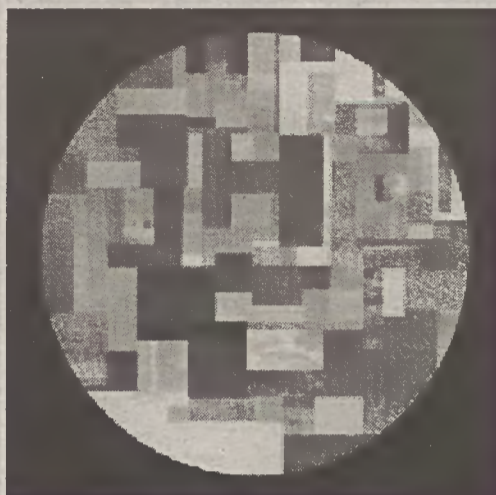


STATE & LOCAL

Standing There

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Globequilting by Chris Cassidy

"Standing There" is a digital art exhibition being shown in the Frankie G. Weems Art Gallery on campus. It explores a new way to experience art. Chris Cassidy's works will be available for viewing until March 25, 2012. Cassidy is currently an associate professor of Design/New Media and the director of graduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Walking into the exhibit, the viewer is struck by feeling distant from the outside world. Cassidy's statement found on the wall next to the entrance reads, "Our technologically enhanced vision allows us to apprehend events of global or microscopic scale, but can also prevent us from experiencing our own place in the world." Cassidy, who holds an MFA in sculpture from SUNY-Albany, noted that he has "only been doing this kind of work since graduate school. Prior to that [he] had done a whole bunch of other stuff. I was a graphic designer and art director, and my undergraduate degree is in illustration." After ten years in

commercial design, he left to study traditional figurative sculpture at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. When he entered graduate school, he began to struggle whether his work was going to be relevant. Inspired by walks he would take in the Adirondacks, he started to think about new ideas for his work. He says that he "wanted to make work that was about place and landscape. I wanted to make work that would potentially activate the museum space – and I drifted toward installations. My first couple of what I would call successful projects were like that."

Kristen Gallagher, a junior museum studies major and art history minor, encourages students to see the exhibit because "students have the opportunity to experience video and digital art in a way they may not have before, and observing moving art is different from observing still works – it will challenge them." Gallagher also believes that "there are commonplace elements of our surroundings that we miss every day."

The exhibition includes a collaborative project with Meredith students and faculty titled "Standing There (Raleigh)". The work centers on an interactive projection that allows the viewer to choose from over 100 videos. The videos include sound, evoking the reality of standing somewhere in Raleigh. The table in front of the projection includes physical samples from the specific locations. The combined samples form a road map of Raleigh. When Gallagher interviewed Cassidy about his thoughts on the collaborative piece, he noted that he didn't truly have an intent for the viewers at the beginning. "I didn't begin it thinking there was anything I wanted the

viewer to go away with. I don't generally work collaboratively, though I do sample found things, videos on the Internet – it is more like a collage. There is this consistent set of things I've been interested in – the relationship between the experience and the real one we believe we're having, that very same experience gets overlaid with related mediated experiences." When Cassidy walked in Albany, he notes that "in addition to seeing things, I was also processing them through this heavily mediated framework. I'd match these real experiences with attached pieces of information in my head. I think of experiences being altered by all these allusions and references that you've seen previously. I don't think that's unusual. [My goal] is to try to somehow make that self-evident or make work that talks to that."

"Globequilting," as defined by Cassidy, is a single video projection that uses Webcam technology and a standard Internet browser to stitch together live views of the sky from over 100 locations across the planet. The viewer can see the sky in places such as China, Japan, Hawaii and other places around the world. It is interesting to see what the weather is in multiple parts of the world at any given moment.

Another part of the exhibition, "Long Fetch II," includes blinds that are controlled by recordings of the waves on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The sound of the blinds emits a calming feeling, exactly like the wind at the beach. Across from this, there is a projection of a collage of colorful trees that are blowing in the wind, controlled by the real-time movements of a rhododendron sapling growing in the courtyard just

outside the gallery.

A projection of the ocean titled "Tidings of Great Things" is also included: the sounds and phrases that are recorded with a microphone in the center of the room trigger increasingly dramatic video footage until the screen is completely submerged. Recorded audio from the microphone is also played back at intervals, which allows for a looming effect. Standing in front of the ocean projection, the viewer is transported to the beach.

To understand the importance of noticing the world around us, we must realize that environment is all around us and we should constantly be aware of it. Because we are so wrapped up in technology and our own affairs, we forget to appreciate the sights and sounds of nature. Chris Cassidy's exhibit will open people's eyes to what they have been missing, whether they realize it or not. Commenting on his creation and editing process, Cassidy noted that he feels he isn't as "intuitive an artist as others are – because I'm trained as an illustrator. I'm a project guy, I'm jealous of others who work more intuitively. I spend lots of time tinkering around . . . but I'm more likely to successfully complete a project if I have an idea of where I'm going with it. In terms of editing, I really don't want to make formal, visual decisions that feel to me decorative or unnecessary. The decisions I make about the work should be coming out of the concept itself and only that. If something doesn't relate back to the original concept, it isn't a [good choice.]"

"Standing There" is located in the Gaddy-Hamrick Art building. Gallery hours are 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday and 2-5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

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The staff of The Meredith Herald is committed to representing our diverse community by publicizing local events, by addressing controversy, by cultivating civic engagement and by empowering women.

Publication Schedule:

February 1
February 15
February 29
March 14
March 28

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What's Up In Raleigh: 2/15-29

Collected by Ashleigh Phillips, Editor

- Feb 15- 19: *Man of La Mancha* @ Burning Coal Theater
- Feb 16 – 26: *NC Ballet presents Balachine Rarities* @ Fletcher Opera Theater
- Feb 17: *NC Symphony presents New World Symphony* @ Meymandi Concert Hall
- Discovery Dance party* @ Kings
- Lonnie Walker, Airstrip, and the Charming Youngsters* @ Tir Na Nog
- Hurricanes vs. Sharks* @ RBC Center
- Feb 18: *NC State vs. Florida State* @ RBC Center
- Feb 19: *5th Annual Raleigh Blues Festival* @ RBC Center
- Feb 20: *Hurricanes vs. Capitals* @ RBC Center
- Feb 21: *NC State vs. UNC* @ RBC Center
- Feb 23: *Hurricanes vs. Ducks* @ RBC Center
- Feb 25: *Hurricanes vs. Panthers* @ RBC Center
- Feb 29: *NC State vs. Miami* @ RBC Center