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Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer



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Creation no. 4

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- 1 *Portrait on the Fly* consists of a series of interactive portraits, plotter drawings and video portraits.

<http://www.interface.ufg.ac.at/christa-laurent/WORKS/MOVIES/PortraitOnTheFly/PortraitOnTheFly.html>

- 2 *Portrait on the Fly (Interactive Version)* is composed of an interactive monitor that shows a swarm of ten thousand flies. When a person positions himself in front of it, the insects try to detect his facial features. They then begin to arrange themselves so as to reproduce them, thereby creating a recognizable likeness of the individual. Posing in front of the monitor attracts the flies.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



- 3 Within seconds they invade the face, and even the slightest movement of the head or parts of the face drives them off. The portraits are constantly constructed and deconstructed, in a constant flux.

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



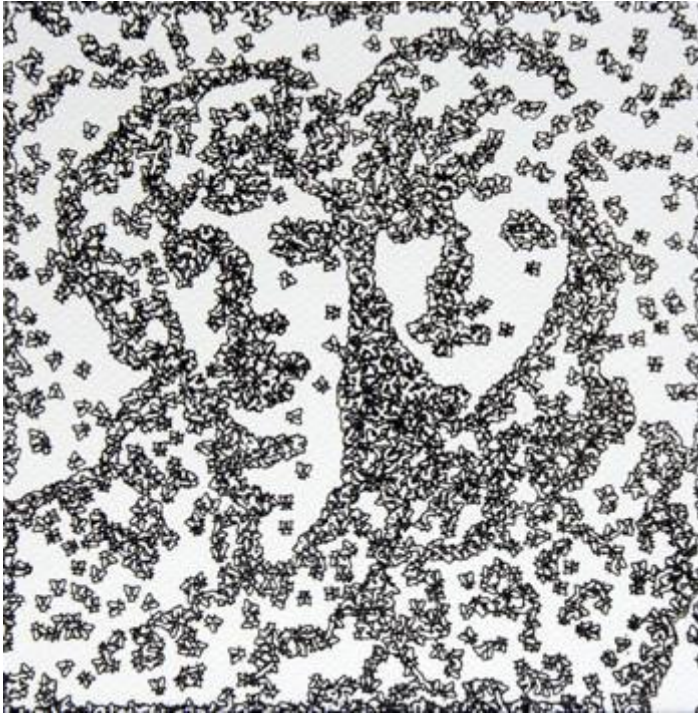
- 4 *Portrait on the Fly* is a commentary on our love for making pictures of ourselves (Selfie-Culture), it has to do with change, transience and impermanence.

Fig. 5



- 5 *Portrait on the Fly (Plotter Drawings)* is a series of plotter drawings. Snapshots of the digital fly portraits were printed out in the style of 1960s plotter drawings. Ephemeral moments of interaction are thereby secured in the form of graphical drawings. The first of them is an autoportrait of Sommerer & Mignonneau.
- 6 The series includes portraits of important media art experts, theorists and artists, such as Frieder Nake, Mark Wilson, Hans Dehlinger, Edmond Couchot, Hannes Leopoldseder, Christine Schöpf, Peter Weibel, Jeffrey Shaw, Lynn Hershman, and many others. The aim is to conserve original and precious images of the historic figures who are involved in media art – an ephemeral field that is obsessed with novelty and change.

Fig. 6

*Portrait on the Fly (Laurent and Christa)*

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed.

Fig. 7

*Portrait on the Fly (Peter Weibel)*

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed.

Fig. 8



Portrait on the Fly (Frieder Nake)

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed.

- 7 *Portrait on the Fly (Video Portraits)* consists of short videos where the moving portrait of well-known media art pioneers, scholars, artists, theorists, gallery owners and organizers are turned into a swarm of flies. These videos include portraits by Frieder Nake, Edmond Couchot, Marie-Hélène Tramus, Lynn Hershman, Jeffrey Shaw, Christiane Paul, Sarah Diamond, Peter d'Agostino, Gerfried Stocker, Oliver Grau, Maurice Benayoun, Paul Thomas, Jill Scott, Paul Sermon, Simon Biggs, Greg Garvey, Jean-Luc Soret, Chu-Yin Chen, Dominique Moulon, Nina Czeglédý, Ellen Pau, Wolf Lieser, Anita Beckers, Tomoe Moriyama, Sabine Himmelsbach and many others.
- 8 It is a growing personal archive of media art experts who, from Sommerer & Mignonneau's personal point of view, are significantly contributing to the development and acceptance of media art within contemporary art.

Fig. 9

*Portrait on the Fly (Edmond Couchot)*

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed.

Fig. 10

*Portrait on the Fly (Oliver Grau)*

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed

Fig. 11



Portrait on the Fly (Marie-Hélène Tramus)

© 2015, Laurent Mignonneau and Christa Sommerer plotter drawing, original signed.