Multimedia Interactive Artist's Archive and Retrospective

Creative options and challenges: a digital art archive grows into a dynamic showcase with new views of the art.

This archive is an independent, solo production that gauges the efficacy of CD-ROM publishing for, and by, individual artists as well as for groups, galleries, and other larger institutions. The set of discs is more similar to an artist's portfolio than a commercial product and is intended primarily for art and educational institutions, rather than for distribution through strictly commercial channels.

The art included in "The Art dimension: an artist's archive and retrospective" (an overview of a half-century in the fine arts) and "The Image Circle: a life in photography" was digitized using one of two methods: scanned on a flatbed scanner or transferred to Photo CDs. Such scans require a considerable amount of "tweaking" or retouching before their appearance is acceptable. In this process, many aspects of an image can be adjusted or altered: color, contrast, sharpness, and even composition.

Sometimes this leads to creation of entirely new versions of the earlier work, and rediscovering the work in its digital form with its new options to alter and create new versions of the original renditions at will constitutes one of the most creative and exciting parts of the task.

The process of developing a digital portfolio provides a whole new view of the art vis-avis the potentials of the new media. Creating animated versions of once-static traditional collages has also led to Dada-esque moving image/sound collages and numerous other dynamic variations of the original art. The possibility of combining simple motion with the existing art has also added a new dimension to the current work: new animations that utilize and recombine parts of earlier imagery into new meaning and a new dynamic creation.

More advanced techniques include such explorations as "mapping" photographic work onto dynamic 3D structures to explore new(ly) anomalous content as well as spatial relationships.



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