



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Video Work by Fernanda D'Agostino and Valerie Otani
Installed at Portland State University's
Academic and Student Recreation Center
Work Acquired Through Oregon 1% for Public Art Program

The Oregon Arts Commission announces the installation of a new site-specific video, "Intellectual Ecosystem." The public artwork, produced and directed by Fernanda D'Agostino, co-produced by Valerie Otani, with director of photography Harry Dawson, is projected onto the glass façade of the PSU Academic and Student Recreation Center (ASRC) in downtown Portland, Oregon (SW 5th and Harrison), and may be viewed from dusk to 11:00 pm nightly.

In addition to housing a recreation center, the new six-story ASRC includes classroom space, a new home for PSU's School of Social Work, the City of Portland's historic archives and offices for the Chancellor of the Oregon University System.

Portland artists D'Agostino and Otani were selected for the project by an art selection committee of PSU students, staff, the project architects and designers and local arts professionals. In considering the most appropriate artwork for such an active and diverse center, the committee encouraged artists to use the local population as subject matter, or to provide opportunities for interaction or gathering. They further requested artwork to be contemporary and responsive to the specific site.

D'Agostino and Otani responded to these desires by creating a video work that uses imagery of PSU student performances, faculty work, and archival holdings that were researched and filmed over a one year period. Nearly forty faculty members and student groups were engaged by the artists.

Explains D'Agostino, "These images reinforce PSU's identity as an institution at the cutting edge of contemporary science and digital communication, and, in a broader sense, a source of energy and activity in the city."

“Intellectual Ecosystem” contains a total of 160 minutes of original video content, projected in a custom programmed sequence to remix the clips. The work is viewable from inside the ASRC and also animates the busy Urban Plaza from a 12' x 16' transparent holographic screen that, even when the projector is active, allows the activities of students inside the building to become another layer of the composition. The title of the work is inspired by PSU Environmental Studies Professor John Reuter, who has called for the creation of new metaphors and the identification of characteristic patterns to allow people to grasp the immensity of natural processes.

Other works commissioned through Oregon's Percent for Art Program for the ASRC include carved cedar panels and “Bunk Rails” on the fifth floor interior and terrace, created by artist team Adam McIsaac and Tony Johnson, and a cut and painted steel work “Incomplete Field Guide for Time Travel,” by Damien Gilley, installed in the auditorium lobby. The City of Portland commissioned artist Keiko Hara to create “Reflected and Reflecting,” a work of glass and mixed media, for the City Archives and Records Center (PARC), located on the fifth floor.

Oregon's Percent for Art Program

Living up to its pioneering reputation, Oregon was one of the first states in the nation to pass Percent for Art legislation, placing works of art in public spaces throughout the state. Since then, the Percent for Art program has maintained a commitment to the placement of permanent art of the highest quality in public places. Committees of local citizens across Oregon make selections. The overall collection enhances the state's public spaces and contributes to our well-recognized quality of life.

Portland State University

Portland State University (PSU) serves as a center of opportunity for over 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Located in Portland, Oregon, one of the nation's most livable cities, the University's innovative approach to education combines academic rigor in the classroom with field-based experiences through internships and classroom projects with community partners. The University's 49-acre downtown campus exhibits Portland State's commitment to sustainability with green buildings, while many of the 125 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees incorporate sustainability into the curriculum. PSU's motto, “Let Knowledge Serve the City,” inspires the teaching and research of an accomplished faculty whose work and students span the globe.

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission: www.oregonartscommission.org