Sensitive Painting

Mauro Annunziato, Isabella Tirelli, Piero Pierucci
realization: 2002, produced by: Plancton Art Studio

*Sensitive Painting* is an interactive installation where a projector linked to a computer, casts images on a large size picture. The picture has been realized as a patchwork with 8 layers. Each layer has been realized composing infinite fragments of colored, transparent papers, stuck together with water based glue. Each layer portrays the eternal flux between Eros and Thanatos (love and destruction). The Libic Sybil, from Michelangelo Buonarroti on the Cappella Sistina, closes (and opens again) the open question summoned by the painting. The images projected on the painting consist of the internal layers memorized in the computer. The underlying layers of the painting are scarcely visible on the painting itself. Some shots of the scenes were taken and then digitally captured during the artwork realization. Images coming from the creation progress symbolize a sort of genetic memory, composing themselves with the final painting to build the basic material of the artwork.

Before the projection, the images are modified in terms of saturation, hue, color inversion and other color contrast models in relation to the people interaction. The perceptive results depends on the composition of the projected image, and the reflection on the physical matter of the real painting. In this way, the painting seems to change dynamically in color and shape. In front of the painting the visitors can interact on a "sensitive table". Moving their hands on the table, the people induce a reaction from the painting. It reacts modifying the perceptive variables through an artificial neural networks. Furthermore, perceptive parameters are used to modulate a sound flux that appears to be produced by the painting itself.

The main theme of the installation is perception seen as an active principle, causing a change in reality based on observer’s attitude, culture, action, social interaction. In this metaphor the painting, animated by its own nature, reacts to the observers, causing a continuous change in perceptive flux, dynamically underlining its aesthetic potential. The meeting between observer and the “sensitive painting” portrays the fusion between the artist’s and observer’s creative flux. The process of the artwork realization, embodied in the projected images is unceasingly elaborated by the observer’s interactions, altering the receptive structures of the painting with their movements.
Short biography

Mauro Annunziato, Piero Pierucci and Oscar Gemma de Julio started the activity of the group PLANCTON in 1994 with a series of artworks and experiments on expressive languages based on the fusion of different media (video, music, painting, installations). Since ’98 it was opened an expressive approach based on chaos and artificial life to explore the potentiality of creation on image building and elaboration of "sound architectures". The relation between art and science, mind and society, communication and interaction have been the central topics of the artworks. Since 1999 it started a diffusion of Plancton works taking part of international events and contexts of art-science-technology (Siggraph, Los Angeles 99 and New Orleans 00; Imagina, Monaco, 00; Generative Art, Milan, ’98,99,00,01; Opera Totale, Venice, 99; Virtuality, Turin, 2000; Imagine, Sweden 01; DARTH, London, 02, Complexity, New York 02) presenting images, interactive installations, papers and developing collaboration with other artists. In particular with Isabella Tirelli (painter and art director) realizing an art performance in theatre including dance and artificial life.

For Annunziato and Pierucci, the expressive activity is strongly fused with the scientific topics. In particular Annunziato is director of a research laboratory on artificial intelligence and artificial life. Piero Pierucci is director of a research group about sound and voice synthesis and 3D sound. Isabella Tirelli is architect and painter, professor of painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti of Florence. Her works have been exposed since 1983 in several countries (Italy, Paris, Hamburg, Basilea, Madrid, New York). In 1984 she realized the spectacle “Statebradi” for the Centre George Pompidou of Paris togheter with Corrado Costa.

More info on the Plancton artworks: www.plancton.com
More info on I. Tirelli artworks in www.plancton.com/tirelli

Contacts
Mauro Annunziato, tel: 39-0630484405, plancton@plancton.com, www.plancton.com
Isabella Tirelli, tel: 39-3398138533, i.tirelli@tin.it, www.plancton.com/tirelli
Piero Pierucci, tel: 39-3483837474, plancton@plancton.com, www.plancton.com