



# Camille Utterback *Engaging Space*



Children interact with *ArcTangent*. In this work, lines and patterns are generated in relation to a participant's position around the circular space of the projection.



## Camille Utterback *Engaging Space*

*Engaging Space* features four video works by Camille Utterback, a pioneering artist and programmer in the field of interactive video art. Utterback is a graduate of Williams College and the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Utterback was recently awarded a Rockefeller Foundation New Media Fellowship. She lives and works in New York City.

In Camille Utterback's installations, video images are projected on screens or walls. Simply by moving or gesturing in the space in front of these images, participants can change them, altering their colors, patterns, shapes, and—in one work—even fragmenting time by activating a stored video clip.

This link between viewer and image is realized not by touch, but by a video camera, which transmits signals of the viewer's movement to a computer. From these signals, software programs written by Utterback extract information about the direction and frequency of the participant's motions and use this information to modify the video imagery.

In Utterback's installations, technical equipment is largely kept out of view (as opposed to some artists who use the equipment itself like sculptural elements within the installation). Our engagement with Utterback's work is directly with the image, rather than with the machines that make the images appear. The nature of our interaction with Utterback's works is, thus, fluid, intuitive, and seemingly unmediated, encouraging our exploration of the rich colors, fluctuating compositions, and intriguing subject matter of the images themselves.

Kidspace at MASS MoCA is a joint program of the Williams College Museum of Art, the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, and MASS MoCA and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency), the Cherkis family, and the Brownrigg Charitable Trust in memory of Lynn Laitman. Additional funding for this exhibition has been provided by the James and Robert Hardman Fund for North Adams of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant to Williams College, and, at Williams College, the Center for Technology in the Arts and Humanities and the English department. Photos: Kevin Kennefick.

*Engaging Space* was organized by Molly Polk with Camille Utterback. Special thanks to Michael Chapman, Richard Criddle, Larry Smallwood, and Rob Steuer.



In *Liquid Time*, visitors make sections of the video clip directly in front of their bodies rewind and advance, thus experiencing multiple moments in time simultaneously.

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A live portrait of a participant, made up of text, corresponds to the dark area of the image in *Written Forms*.

## Engaging Space

February 8 – August 19, 2002

2/8–5/31: Thurs 3–5 PM, Sat & Sun 12–4 PM

6/1–8/19: Thurs–Mon 12–5 PM

### Works in the Exhibition

All works are interactive installations and include custom software, a computer, projector, and video camera.

*ArcTangent*, 2001

*Liquid Time – Tokyo Series*, 2001

*Written Forms*, 2000

*Luminous Flux*, 2001



# Kidspace

at MASS MoCA

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[massmoca.org/kidspace](http://massmoca.org/kidspace)

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## Camille Utterback

### Selected Exhibitions

2002

The Kitchen, New York, NY

Netherlands Institute for Media Art, Amsterdam

Caren Golden Fine Arts, New York, NY

2001

Taipei Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan  
International Academy of Media Arts and Sciences,  
Ogaki City, Japan

Center for Contemporary Art, Kiev, Ukraine

Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong, China

Cynthia Broan Gallery, New York, NY

WRO Center for Media Art, Wroclaw, Poland

Boston Architectural Center, Boston, MA

Wood Street Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

2000

Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria

Seoul Metropolitan Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

SIGGRAPH 2000 Art Gallery, New Orleans, LA

European Media Art Festival, Osnabruck, Germany

NTT InterCommunication Center, Tokyo, Japan

Postmasters Gallery, New York, NY

New Langton Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA

### Selected Commissions

2002

Pittsburgh Children's Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

2001

American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

Herman Miller, Chicago, IL

Shiseido, Tokyo, Japan

Front: a child interacts with *Luminous Flux*. His movement in front of the screen is represented by green and red edges of color, which remain for a moment and then fade away.