MIT'S MAGAZINE OF INNOVATION
TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

TR100 PROFILES

CAMILLE UTTERBACK | AGE 31

ARTS

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Media artist Camille Utterback's award-winning video tracking exhibits create spaces where computers follow and interact with a person's entire body. In *Text Rain*, a demonstration based on patent-pending software created by Utterback and artist Romy Achituv, participants see themselves projected in real time on a wall while letters from the lines of a poem rain on their bodies. As the people move, the letters adjust accordingly. In *Crossing*, what appears to be an abstract painting on the wall is really a projection that ripples in response to a viewer's movements. Utterback's goal, both as an artist and an assistant professor at New York University and the Parsons School of Design, is to "help people realize that when technology systems are designed well, they are really fun." Utterback, who in November 2000 started her own company, Creative Nerve, is a rare example of a computer programmer trained in the fine arts. Carl Goodman, curator of digital media at the American Museum of the Moving Image, says Utterback excels at following her curiosity and that her work "will stand up to scrutiny in the future, when the technology she's using will no longer be novel."

All hail the TR100! These 100 brilliant young innovators—all under 35 as of Jan. 1, 2002—are visitors from the future, living among us here and now. Their innovations will have a deep impact on how we live, work and think in the century to come.

This is the second time *Technology Review* has picked such a group. The first was in 1999, our magazine's centennial year. That was a wonderful experience, but we've learned a lot in the last three years, and we think this installment is even more exciting than the first.

For one thing, we've chosen a special theme for this version of the TR100: transforming existing industries and creating new ones. We looked for technology's impact on the *real economy*, as opposed to the now moribund "new economy." The major hot spots where we think a fundamental transformation is in progress include information technology, biotechnology and medicine, nanotechnology and materials, energy, and transportation. The bulk of the TR100, who are profiled in the following pages, come from those five areas. These innovators are first grouped alphabetically and then indexed by their areas of work *(p. 95)*.

In addition to this offering in our magazine, we've posted an augmented version of the TR100 special section on our Web site, with more information about all the honorees and a rich set of links to sites pertaining to their original research (www.technologyreview.com/tr100/feature). Choosing this group has been a painstaking process that began more than a year ago. We could not have succeeded without our distinguished panel of judges *(p. 97)*. But it's been worth it. We promise that as you watch the careers of these 100 people unfold, you will be able to accompany them back to their home: the future.