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CAMILLE UTTERBACK: ENTANGLEDEmerson Urban Arts: Media Art Gallery • Boston, MA • emerson.edu/urban-arts/media-art-gallery • Through April 22, 2017

In the middle of Emerson College's new Media Art Gallery hang three, separate, translucent, silver-gray theatrical scrims with abstract, and a few realistic, images projected onto both sides. When a viewer gets close to Camille Utterback's *Entangled* his or her movements interact and merge with those images and with those from participants on the other side of the scrim. The brightly colored impressions appear, scatter, float, roll, ricochet or evaporate depending on the actions of the visitors creating an interactive and dynamic composition.

Entangled, says MacArthur "genius grant" artist Utterback, "refers to the merging of participants' physical traces on scrims...[and] our

Camille Utterback, *Entangled*. Photo: Johnna Arnold.

Williams College in 1992 with a degree in art. But back at home in Boston, she discovered a supportive group of young artists who used digital technology in their art. "They were in the forefront of a movement that was in its infancy," she says. "It was all very experimental with people trying new things and sharing ideas." She took courses in animation and computer programming

ongoing emotional entanglement with digital systems in our lived environment." The Contemporary Jewish Museum of San Francisco first commissioned this piece for its 2015 group exhibition, *NEAT: New Experiments in Art & Technology*.

Utterback is a master of art technology. She graduated from

(considered "radical" at the time) at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

She then enrolled in the New York University Tisch School of the Arts in 1996 in its interactive telecommunications program where her graduate thesis, an installation, *Text Rain*, was widely shown. Last year, the Smithsonian American Art Museum purchased it. In 2013, Utterback collaborated with animator Michelle Higa Fox and worked with historic glass fabricator Franz Mayer of Munich to create *Flourish*, a 70-foot long, glass installation for the Liberty Mutual Group's executive corridor at its Boston headquarters. It introduced a new technique, a method for projecting interactive images on multiple layers of specially made glass.

Utterback has developed her own software and holds a U.S. patent for computer vision technique. In awarding the 2009 MacArthur, the committee cited her "for showing exceptional creativity"—something you experience firsthand with *Entangled*.

—Shirley Moskow