

Art

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Mixed Messages
Hans Haacke interviewed

Para-Cities
The artist as architect

Dead Artists' Society
Polemic

The Right to Destroy
Art and the Law





Container City at Trinity Buoy Wharf, London 2000

Futurenet

The cost of getting access to advanced technology is prohibitive to most artists and this is science's loss. This was the message delivered by Don Forester at the conference 'Global and Local: The condition of art practice now' which took place at Tate Modern on February 2 and 3. Forester was accompanied by a host of internationally renowned speakers including Lucy Lippard, David Harvey and Geeta Kapur. He was speaking on behalf of MARCEL, or the Multimedia Art Research Centres and Electronic Laboratories as it is otherwise known. MARCEL is a web portal designed to enable collaboration between artists and to assist them in using all aspects of future internet and communications technology. Forester presented delegates with a vision of the future internet that rendered today's web archaic. His truly postmodern vision included the possibility for real time performance with real time interaction between viewers across the globe. He asserted the importance of involving artists from the outset and of preparing colleges and universities well

in advance of the coming changes. Currently involved in the project is Wimbledon School of Art which is responsible for managing the section of the website dedicated to practice based research – Forester is currently an AHRB fellow at Wimbledon where he is researching wide band-width networks. Forester will now meet with senior representatives from other British art colleges to discuss further partnerships and to advise more generally on the effect of new internet technology on future curricula. Colleges in America, Canada and France are well advanced in the project and the first live transmission tests on high band-width networks begin this Spring, and will take place between Ryerson University in Toronto, Wimbledon School of Art, University of San Diego and Le Fresnoy in France.

Those put off attending long conferences by the fear of humiliating themselves by falling asleep will be glad to hear that many Tate events can now be viewed from the comfort of your own home as webcasts on www.tate.org.uk/modern/programmes/webcasting.htm. Early estimates put the number of stay-at-home viewers of 'Global and Local' at around 200. But to ensure that speakers were not drowned out by the roar of snoring delegates the conference organisers implemented a second strategy, made possible by the well thought-out design of the Starr auditorium; beneath each seat is a vent through which cold air was pumped to help delegates stay awake. More info about MARCEL on www.mmmarcel.org. ■

Couch potatoes

Daydreamers on buses in Peckham had a rude awakening last month during Mark McGowan's week long performance work *Couch*. McGowan spent a week sitting on a couch 16ft up in the air (the height of top deck windows on buses), shouting at his television. The work was intended as a parody of people that have strong opinions but rarely make any effort to address the issues involved. 'You know those people who sit at home in front of the television, shouting at it, saying "Tony Blair, Tony Blair, Tony Blair". Well this piece of work is about them', said McGowan. Commissioned by Southwark Police the work was partly funded from Home Office money earmarked for crime reduction initiatives. Sergeant Martin Wilson praised McGowan for his community spiritedness and said that *Couch* fits in perfectly with their current anti-hate crime campaign 'Love South-