

Ellen Sebring

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Profile

Ellen Sebring is Creative Director of MIT Visualizing Cultures, a project founded to create a new area of image-driven scholarship through collaboration with historians. A new media designer and video artist, she is pursuing the PhD to further explore visual narrativity.

Experience

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA, 2002 – present

Research Associate/Creative Director, Visualizing Cultures

BOTTICELLI INTERACTIVE, Inc., Boston, MA, 1995 – 2002

President and Co-Founder

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 1987 – 1993

Research Fellow, Center for Advanced Visual Studies

VIDEO ARTIST AND INDEPENDENT PRODUCER, 1986 – present

Education

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, Plymouth, England, pursuing PhD, 2009 - present

Centre for Advanced Inquiry into the Interactive Arts (CAiA)

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE, Los Angeles, CA, 1992-94

Directing Workshop for Women

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Cambridge, MA, 1986

Master of Science in Visual Studies

HOCHSCHULE FUER MUSIK UND DARSTELLENDEN KUNST, Vienna, Austria, 1978-79

Music composition

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Indiana, 1977

Bachelor of Music, 1977

Projects (selected)

MIT VISUALIZING CULTURES, over 30 units based on the visual record of early modern Japan & China, produced in collaboration with historians, published on MIT OpenCourseWare, 2002-present

Media concept, Pulverer Collection of Japanese Illustrated Books, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 2011
BLACK SHIPS & SAMURAI EXHIBIT, exhibit design, toured US & Japan, 2003-2005
TILT: disrupting gravity, performance, sponsored by MIT Council for the Arts, Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 2005
BLACK SHIPS & SAMURAI EXHIBIT ON BROADWAY, Studio 54, with Sondheim's "Pacific Overtures," 2004
LITTLE TIGER, interactive documentary/website, MIT, Designer/Writer, 2002
CAMKIDZ, interactive television prototype, Executive Producer/Writer, Botticelli Interactive, funded by the Institute for Civil Society, 2000-2001
RIDE, documentary film, Director, 2002
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY AT THE NEW ICA, planning document for media technology in the new building of Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art, 2001
STAR FESTIVAL K-12 CURRICULUM, MIT, Co-developed framework with Boston Children's Museum; first multimedia curriculum adopted systemwide by Boston Public Schools, 2001
WHEN I WAS A BOY, author, illustrated book, part of curriculum, 2001
STAR NETWORK, broadband television series, Botticelli Interactive and MIT, Producer/Writer, 1998-2000
EARLY AMERICAN COLLECTIONS Online & Discovery Kiosk, Worcester Art Museum, Producer, 2001
STAR FESTIVAL: a Return to Japan, interactive documentary, MIT, Producer/Writer, awarded a Best of Show, MacWorld Expo, 1998
TITIAN KIOSK, educational DVD kiosk, Producer/Writer, awarded Silver Medal, New York Festivals International Multimedia Competition, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 1997
THIS PLACE CALLED HOME, Interactive Designer, Environmental Protection Agency, 1997

Professional Activities/Conference Papers

Visualizing Asia in the Modern World, conference on image-driven scholarship, co-sponsored by MIT Visualizing Cultures, Princeton University, to be held May 2012
"Acts of Authoring within a Visual Narrative Field," Presence in the Mindfield Conference: Art, Identity and the Technology of Transformation, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon, Portugal, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2011
"World on the Head of a Pin: Visualizing Micro and Macro Points of View in China's Boxer War of 1900," Transcultural Tendencies | Transmedial Transactions, Shanghai Institute of Visual Art, Fudan University, Shanghai, Aug, 25-27, 2011
Visualizing Asia in the Modern World, conference on image-driven scholarship, co-sponsored by MIT Visualizing Cultures, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 20-21, 2011
"From Opium to Boxers: Sight-lines in Visual History," MetaMorf 2010, Biennial for Art and Technology, Trondheim Electronic Arts Center, Trondheim, Norway, Nov. 4-6, 2010
"Methods of Image-Driven Historical Research," Humanities+Digital Conference, MIT, Cambridge, MA, May 20-22, 2010
"The Boxer Uprising Media Storm," Visualizing Global Asia at the Turn of the 20th Century, co-sponsored by MIT Visualizing Cultures, Yale University, April 30-May 1, 2010
"Visual Narrative in Historical Research Part 1: Search - Down the Rabbit Hole," Skilled Art Conference, University of Porto, Guimaraes, Portugal, April 23-24, 2010
10th International Conference of Art, Technology and Consciousness, Munich, Germany, Nov. 19-21, 2009
Featured Presenter, Markle Foundation, "Kids TV Goes Digital," Rainbow Room, NYC, 2001
Keynote Speaker, Portland Museum of Art, New Media & Museum Education Conference, 2001
Guest Lecturer: Pratt Institute, NYC; Rhode Island School of Design; Emerson College, Boston, 2001-2002
Summit, Disney, interactive television programming, 2001
Consultant, "ExplorAsia," Educational Initiative, Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian, Washington, DC, 2000

Awards/Grants (selected)

MIT Council for the Arts, for TILT on stage, 2005
Banff New Media Institute, Residency/production grant, Banff, Canada, 2004
MIT Class of 1960 Innovation in Education award, for MIT Visualizing Cultures, 2004
Pick of the Week, Visualizing Cultures Black Ships & Samurai, Yahoo, 2004
Distinguished Award, Multimedia Grandprix 2000, for StarNetwork, Tokyo, 2000
Pick of the Week, Early American Collections website, Worcester Art Museum, Yahoo, 2000
Institute for Civil Society, interactive television development grant, 2000
Silver Medal, New York Festivals International Multimedia Competition, for Titian Kiosk at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 1998
Best Art Exhibit, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Best of Boston, Boston Phoenix, 1998
Best of Show, MacWorld Expo, for Star Festival, 1997
Freakin' Awesome rating, for Star Festival, MacAddict Magazine, 1997
American Film Institute, Los Angeles, Directing Workshop for Women, 1992
New England Foundation for the Arts, grant for "Branch," 1992
MIT, Dean of the School of Arts, Project Grant, 1992
Artists Foundation, Boston, Fellowship Award in Video, 1989
VideoZone Festival, Springfield, Grand Prize and 1st Prize, 1989
New England Foundation for the Arts, Meet-the-Composer grant, 1989
WGBH, Boston and WNET, NYC, New Television series, video commission, national broadcast, 1988
New England Foundation for the Arts, Meet-the-Composer grant, 1988
Artists Foundation, Boston, finalist award in video, 1988
World Wide Video Festival, Holland, Canon Europa prize, 1987
National Endowment for the Arts, Interarts Grant, 1987
MIT Council for the Arts, grant, 1984, 1986, 1987
Real Art Ways, Hartford, Artist-In-Residency, 1987
Artists Foundation, Boston, finalist award in video, 1987
Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, New Works Grant, 1986
National Endowment for the Arts, New England Film/Video Fellowship Program, grant, 1986
National Student Video Competition, American Film Institute, honorable mention, 1985
Massachusetts Arts Lottery, grant, 1984

Exhibitions & Broadcasts (selected)

Steam, video art collaboration w/ composer Emily Kalies, featuring steam works by Joan Brigham, Sensorium, Dublin, Ireland, 2011; York, England, 2010
Tilt, shown at Design Process, MIT Dept of Architecture, Galley at Takenaka Corp, Tokyo, 2009
Dance Camera West, Los Angeles, 2008
Dance on Camera, Lincoln Center, NYC, 2007
WorldWide Video Festival, Holland, 2007
TILT on stage, Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 2005
Summer Film Festival, Banff Centre, Banff, Canada, 2004
Lincoln Center, Dance on Camera Festival, NY 2003
Maui Film Festival, Seabury Hall, Maui, Hawaii, 2003
Whaling Museum, Martha's Vineyard, 2002
Coolidge Corner Theatre, Video Interactions, screening, 2000
DeCordova Museum, video exhibition, 1999
VideoDanse, 7th Grand Prix International, Paris, 1994

Paula Josa-Jones Performance Works, C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, Boston, 1994
CAVS Retrospective, MIT Museum, 1994
Televisions, PRIM, Montreal, Quebec, 1991
Studio 7, featured artist, WHDH-TV, Boston, 1991
A View from Baltimore to Washington, Baltimore, 1991
Continental Cable, Cambridge, 1991
DeCordova Museum, one-person exhibition, Lincoln, 1990
MassachusArts, Boston Center for the Arts, 1990
Video Danse, 3eme Grand Prix International, Paris, 1990
Arttransition 90, International Conference on Art and Technology, MIT, 1990
New Television, PBS series, broadcast, Boston, NYC, Los Angeles, Washington DC, 1989
World Wide Video Festival, Den Haag, Holland, 1989
Channel 7, broadcast/interview, Boston, 1989
Rhode Island School of Design, permanent collection, Providence, 1989
Medium Rare, broadcast/interview, Brookline Cable, Boston, 1989
The Artists Foundation, one-person show, Transportation Building, Boston, 1989
Deutscher Kuenstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany, 1988
"Aviary" multimedia performance, The Cube, Media Lab, MIT, 1988
New Festival, CAVS exhibition, Lancaster, Ohio, 1988
San Francisco Video Festival, San Francisco, California, 1987
Art Video Boston, Hatch Shell, Boston, 1987
Boston Film/Video Foundation, Boston, 1987
Montreal Film Festival, Montreal, Quebec, 1987
"Filmer a Tout Prix 87" le Botanique, Brussels, 1987
World Wide Video Festival, Den Haag, Holland, 1987
"L'Immagine Elettronica" Bologna, Italy, 1987
"Dissonant Landscapes" Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, 1987
Nightshift, WCVB-TV broadcast, 1/2 hour of selected works, Channel 5, Boston, 1987
Art Video Boston, Hatch Shell, Boston, 1987
WGBH-TV, Channel 2 broadcast, Boston, 1986
International High Technology Arts Festival, Tokyo, Japan, 1986
Video Visions, touring via CAT Fund and New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), 1986
Currents, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, 1986
Mixed Signals, cablecast New England area, New England Foundation for the Arts, 1986
Outside Music Television II, First Night, Boston, 1986
Union Video Festival, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1986
Art Video Boston, Hatch Shell, Boston, 1986
Mehr Licht, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany, 1985
Made for TV Festival, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, 1985
Outside Music Television I, First Night, Boston, 1985
NewComp Concert, Cambridge, 1985
Art Video Boston, Hatch Shell, Boston, 1985
13th International Montreal Film Festival, Montreal, 1984
17th San Paulo Biennale, San Paulo, Brazil, 1984
Salute to 1984/85, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, 1984
Coastal Extremes, Video Free America, San Francisco, California, 1984
12 Emerging Artists from MIT, Art Institute of Boston, 1984
Cambridge Video Art Festival, Off the Wall Cinema, Cambridge, 1984
Boston Now, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, 1983

Filmography (major works)

Steam, video art collaboration w/ composer Emily Kalies, featuring steam works by Joan Brigham, 2010

In the Woods, on the nature of horses & dance, 2009

Etudes, web studies, 2008-ongoing

Tilt, w/choreographer Paula Josa-Jones, 2007

Dive, w/choreographer Paula Josa-Jones, 2004

Ride, documentary, 2002

CamKidz, Executive Producer, interactive television prototype, 2001

EyeDance, documentary, Director, 2001

StarNetwork, broadband series, Producer, (Multimedia Grandprix 2000 distinguished award, Tokyo)

Changing Minds, Todd Siler, Ornette Coleman, Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, NYC, Video Director, 1998

Titian Kiosk, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Producer (Silver Medal, New York Festivals, 1998)

Star Festival, interactive documentary, Producer (Best of Show, MacWorld Expo 1997)

Evidence of June, Directing Workshop for Women, American Film Institute, LA, Director, 1992-94

Branch, video art, 1996

Art, Science and Technology, Kunstverein Cologne, WDR-TV, Germany, Co-Director, 1993

Aviary, video art, Director, (national broadcast, New Television series, PBS, 1989)

The Hours, 1st Prize, VideoZone, 1989

Tableaux Vivants, video art Grand Prize, VideoZone, 1988

The Boxer's Puzzle, w/Bill Seaman, Canon Europa Prize, World Wide Video Festival, 1986

The Making of Severe Clear, documentary on James Turrell & Dana Reitz, WGBH-TV, PBS, Director, 1986

Thirst, for "Elastic Movies" interactive videodisc, MIT, Artist, 1986