

## FALL 2001 NEWSLETTER

### **Message from the Director:**

I would like to use this space to introduce both myself and some activities of the Center. I am a Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Computer Engineering at UNM and have been here for 23 years. For the past 15 years, I've been involved with computer graphics, both in my teaching and research. Over the years, I've come to know many of the faculty in the College of Fine Arts (CFA). Through the joint Media Arts/Computer Science Three-Dimensional Animation class that I initiated five years ago, I've also come to know many of the students and graduates of the College. I was honored to have been selected as Director of the Art Technology Center and to be given the opportunity to help the Center develop.

The ATC is founded on the belief that technology is important to all branches of the CFA and that the Center is fundamentally interdisciplinary. We are fortunate to be located in a state which has enormous strengths in both the arts and technology. All too often, however, people in one of the areas are unaware of what the other group is doing. For many years, we had a very active SIGGRAPH (Special Interest Group on Graphics) chapter in NM that sponsored interdisciplinary activities including an annual exhibition at the Albuquerque Convention Center that drew up to

**Continued page 4**

### **ATC FALL LECTURE SERIES UNDER WAY**

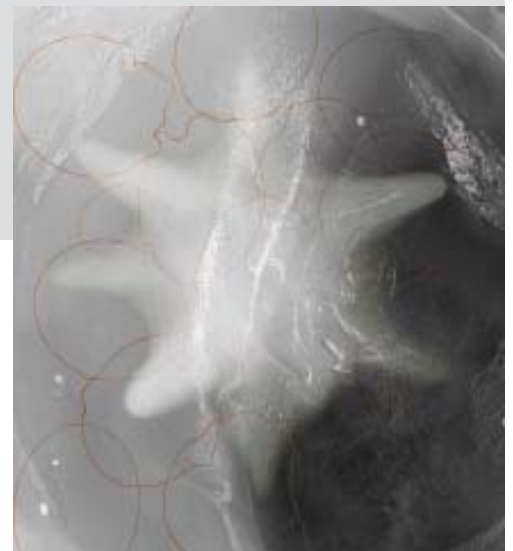
ATC's Fall 2001 Lecture series has so far been a great success, featuring the recipients of its 2000 Fellowships.

The series commenced with a presentation by Jim Stone, a professor of photography in UNM's Department of Art and Art History. Stone's lecture and concurrent exhibit of recent works, *A Study in Repurposing Content*, featured photographic icons digitally altered to reveal hidden irony and humor. This event was co-sponsored by the University Art Museum, who is exhibiting Stone's work through December 16th.

UNM Photography graduate student Dennis DeHart was next, discussing his recent work from his *Metamorphose* project as well as his *Homomorphy* project, a work in progress. DeHart's thoughtful and intimate renderings of nature, both digitally manipulated photographs and video, were a visual treat and can still be viewed at his web site: [www.unm.edu/~dehart/homepage](http://www.unm.edu/~dehart/homepage).

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Kelpmap by Dennis DeHart



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### **Arts Technology Center**

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## ATC Project Happenings

In early October, ATC prepared a proposal to the NEH to fund a research project that examines how students from the arts, physical and computer

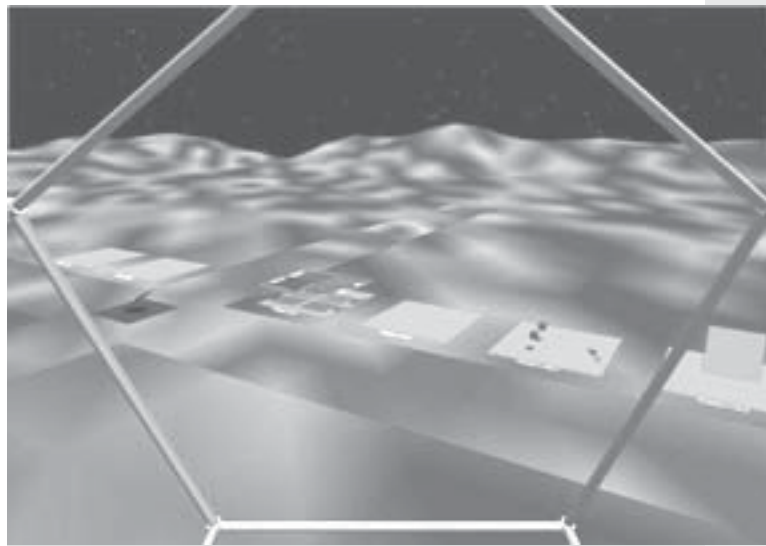
sciences interact to solve visualization problems using *Flatland*. *Flatland* is an open source, three-dimensional graphics program that enables the creation of virtual environments that utilize images, text, animation, sound and hyperlinks. These interdisciplinary groups would work at the Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center in its Visualization Laboratory to solve three dimensional, graphics problems.

This project is a collaborative endeavor by ATC Associate Director and adjunct Assistant Professor, Danae Falliers, and Tom Caudell, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineer and Computer Science and director of AHPCC's Visualization Laboratory. Falliers believes "this collaboration provides a unique opportunity for students in the fine arts to work with their peers in the sciences to develop a visual language that examines the symbiotic nature of art and science." The results of the research would be

used to eventually develop a hybrid, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to facilitate interaction between artists and scientists in visual design and problem solving.

Several other ATC projects are in development or pending with the NEA, the Ford, Rockefeller and McCune foundations. Partners in these projects include the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the Lodestar Planetarium, and the Santa Fe Institute, and the Art and Science Lab.

Look for further developments on these projects in the spring. In the meantime, *Quantum* will publish a feature article on ATC in their December 2001 edition, profiling ATC's Director and Associate Director, Ed



Angel and Danae Falliers, as well as digital artists and ATC fellowship recipients Jim Stone and Dennis DeHart (see ATC FALL LECTURE SERIES UNDER WAY).

Above, view of *Flatland*

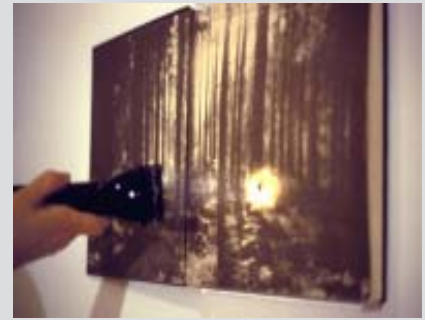
## New Professor of Electronic and Digital Arts at UNM

Mary Tsiongas joined UNM's Art and Art History Department as its new Assistant Professor of Electronic and Digital Arts. Tsiongas has an MFA in Film, Video and Performance from the California College of Arts and Crafts, a BFA in Ceramics from the Massachusetts College of Art, and a BS in Biology and Psychology from Boston College. She has come to UNM from the San Francisco Art Institute, where she was a visiting artist faculty member.

Tsiongas has always been drawn to incorporating technology in her work, attempting to connect the often disparate elements of technology and nature. In her artist statement to the Haines Gallery ([www.hainesgallery.com](http://www.hainesgallery.com)), where she will be participating in a group show this December, she states:

## ***Tsiongas continued***

The work I do begins with a deep sense of connectedness of things which are often seen as separate. I use simple video and sound technology as well as everyday elements in an attempt to create an experience of liberation from expectation for the viewer. . . . it is not just any part of the world which I have been seeking my relation to, but the natural world, which often seems at a remove, yet is so strangely imminent, in the particular place in which I currently live.



This predominant theme of the dissonance between nature and technology in her work is also apparent in one of her new projects, “The Aviary,” funded in part with a grant from the College of Fine Arts. “The Aviary” incorporates short recordings of human birdcalls; the solar powered, individual recordings will be activated at different times of day as the sun hits their respective solar panels, thus creating a patently simulated natural environment.

As a professor at UNM, Tsiongas hopes to develop an Electronic Arts area that will draw students from around the country who are focused in electronic media. She hopes to develop a program that is inclusive of what it means to be an electronic artist. She also wants students to be knowledgeable of this vast medium’s history, and of what artists are currently doing both nationally and internationally. “I want to expand the fine arts part of [electronic media]; how artists make art with it, not just [software] programs, but looking at it as a new medium.”

In her “Arts in Cyberspace: Art on the Net” course, Tsiongas hopes to initiate a collaborative art project between her students and students from a similar class taught by Gail Wight of Mills College, possibly using the Access Grid at the Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center (AHPCC) to interact in real time in Cyberspace – ATC developed a relationship with and supports art programs at AHPCC.

In her first semester in the Art and Art History Department, Tsiongas has found that most students are indeed interested in electronic and digital media as fine art media and not skills to learn in order to secure a job after graduation. This is a pleasant surprise for a dedicated electronic artist. “Even though it’s been a bit of hard work so far, I’m very excited to be teaching here and developing a potential area.”

### **ATC Calendar of Events**

December 4, 2001

Lecture by Michael Cook  
12:00, noon

December 6, 2001

Lecture by Monika Bittman  
4:00 PM

*Watch for announcements of  
Spring 2002 Lecture Series.*

*Above: Wood Book 2 by Mary Tsiongas*

*Article by: Sally Bowler-Hill from an interview with Ms.*

*Tsiongas on November 20, 2001*

## Lecture Series Continued:

Of equal interest was the presentation by UNM Photography graduate student John Mann, who discussed the integration of digital photography techniques into his own art making. Mann discussed how the computer could be used to reproduce the look of 19<sup>th</sup> Century photographic processes and how this change of tools effected his perception of and interest in his finished art works.

It's not too late to catch the last 2 presentations of our Fall Lecture Series. UNM Art professor Michael Cook will discuss his Veneer project on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00, noon; and Monika Bittman will discuss her Liminal Longings installation project, which was created last summer in the Czech Republic on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.



Images by (clockwise): John Mann, Michael Cook, Monika Bittman, John Mann

## Director's Letter continued:

2000 people. We have recently revived that group under the name Dawgstars (Digital Artists, Wizards, and Gurus). Under its new organization, we hope to revive the forum where all these talented people could meet and exchange ideas. We also are very interested in working on economic development issues as we want to provide the opportunities in New Mexico for our talented, creative, and well-educated graduates. We just had an event at the new Lodestar Planetarium and plan to have another one early next year.

One other exciting activity we are working on in conjunction with the UNM's Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center is the Digital Hogan Project. One of the lessons I have learned over the years is that of all the things that we educators can do, providing opportunities is the most important. We have the talent in NM; we need to get this talent access to the resources. The focus of this project is provide "technology access points" around the state, especially in rural areas, where anyone can obtain access to the types of facilities available to our students here. We will use the Access Grid Technology used by the NSF and the AHPCC to provide mentoring and the ability to do joint projects. Partners in this project range from the National Hispanic Cultural Center, to the Poeh Arts Centers in Pojoaque, to the Studio in Albuquerque.

One of my priorities for the year is to get to know as many of the faculty, students, and staff in the College as possible and to see how the ATC can work with them. Although a slew of other commitments have limited the amount of time I've been able to spend at the ATC this fall, next semester promises to be a different story. Please contact me, Danae, or Sally with your ideas and suggestions.



The University of New Mexico

Ed Angel, Director  
Arts Technology Center



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