



the art of  
**COLLABORATION**  
a symposium

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Art of Collaboration:  
Processes Technologies Authorship**

**Location:** The Media Lab, in UCSC's *New* Digital Arts Research Center (DARC), located between the Music Recital Hall and Baskin Visual Arts on West Campus, UC Santa Cruz.

**Date:** Thursday October 22 through Friday October 23, 2009

**Time:** Thursday 4:30p-7:30p, and Friday 9:30a-7:30p

**UCSC's Arts Division and Porter College are proud to present an interdisciplinary symposium investigating *collaboration* as a key concept in contemporary art and creative production.** More than twenty scholars, artists, filmmakers, game designers and theorists will come together to discuss the meanings and cultural aspirations associated with collaboration, including non-hierarchical production, shared authorship, cross-disciplinary and trans-cultural approaches to research. Collaborative work between artists, curators, programmers, designers, scholars, students, activists and others will be considered as an alternative to the notion of individual authorship in intellectual and creative endeavors.

Hosted by the Digital Arts and New Media MFA Program, *The Art of Collaboration* is the inaugural symposium of the new Digital Arts Research Center (DARC). The symposium will be divided into three panels including: Dialogue and Difference; Authorship, Technologies and Frames; and Modes of Production and Reception. Joining our esteemed UC Santa Cruz faculty will be participants from the Bay Area, as well as national and international guests. These panels will consider questions regarding what it means to work together, such as: How has collaboration evolved as an activist response to notions of individual genius in the arts? How do creative production, curating and scholarship become collaborative practices? What strategies have evolved for authoring, synthesizing, presenting, publishing and archiving artists' works? How do these developments redefine what art/scholarship/curatorial practice can be? Can artists and filmmakers ever truly collaborate with communities or share authorship with subjects?

In addition to our panels, a keynote address will be delivered by Professor Grant Kester, Chair and Associate Professor of Art History in the Visual Arts Department at UC San Diego. His publications include *Art, Activism and Oppositionality: Essays from Afterimage* (Duke University Press) and *Conversation Pieces: Community and Communication in Modern Art* (University of California Press). His forthcoming book is *The One and the Many: Agency and Identity in Contemporary Collaborative Art* (Duke University Press). His talk is entitled "Enclosure Acts: Collaborative Practice in an Indian Village."

With the UC Santa Cruz Foundation, *The Art of Collaboration* will co-present a lecture by Dr. Ed Catmull on the topic of collective creativity. Dr. Catmull is co-founder of Pixar, and president of Pixar and Disney Animation Studios. He will be awarded the 2009 Foundation Medal at the Founders Day Dinner on Friday, October 23 ([www.ucsc.edu/founders/](http://www.ucsc.edu/founders/)). His UCSC Foundation Forum keynote address is entitled "Creativity: What I Don't Know and What I Know."

Artistic presentations in conjunction with the proceedings include collaborative works of art by students, as well as a joint reception with Sesnon Gallery (Porter College) to celebrate *Full Disclosure*, an exhibition featuring collaborative projects by UCSC arts and science faculty and lab researchers. By exploring the complexities of collaboration, this symposium challenges overdependence on intellectual individuality in favor of the non-territorial, collective, dialogic, participatory and relational.

**This event is free and open to the public. Register at <http://danm.ucsc.edu/web/collaboration>**

**Schedule of Events:**

**Thursday, 22 October 2009**

**4:30p-5:00p Introductory Remarks: Margaret Morse and B. Ruby Rich**

**5:00p-6:00p Keynote Address: Grant Kester, UC San Diego**

Grant Kester is Chair and Associate Professor of Art History in the Visual Arts Department at the University of California, San Diego.

**6:00p-7:30p Reception and Collaborative Presentations**

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**Friday, 23 October 2009**

**9:30a-10:30a Coffee and Mixer**

**10:30a-12 noon Panel I: Dialogue and Difference**

Explores collaboration as a dialogic process that depends on difference and contestation as much as it does participation, the search for a common language, and cooperation. Is failure a dimension of all successful collaboration? How does the dialogic nature of collaboration herald unexpected possibilities?

Participants: Sean Fletcher & Isabel Reichert, John Jota Leañós, Michael Mateas, Gustavo Vazquez

Moderator: Dee Hibbert-Jones; Respondent: Sharon Daniel

**12 noon-1:30p Panel II: Authorship, Technologies and Frames**

Considers methods and approaches that enable creative collaborations in academia and elsewhere, overcoming the exclusion of collaborative authorship from the distribution of credit and rewards, including academic tenure, and in the archiving and curating of collaborative work. Are there particular technological developments or innovative organizational frameworks that have contributed to collaborative authorship or agency?

Participants: E.G. Crichton, David Evan Harris, Jon Ippolito, Marsha Kinder

Moderator: Warren Sack; Respondent: Noah Wardrip-Fruin

**1:30p-3:00p Break For Lunch**

**3:00p-4:00p UCSC Foundation Forum: Dr. Ed Catmull, President of Pixar and Disney Animation Studios**

Presented in collaboration with the UC Santa Cruz Foundation at the Music Recital Hall, with a simulcast in the DARC Media Lab.

**4:30p-6:00p Panel III: Modes of Production and Reception**

Explores examples of collaborative practices in the arenas of contemporary art, activism, and research. What are the successes and failures of these experiments? How can communications across disciplines and between academic sites and the public be improved?

Participants: Joline Blais, Claudia Eipeldauer of WochenKlausur, Melissa Gwyn, Bassam Haddad, Susana Ruiz

Moderator: Chip Lord; Respondent: Jennifer A. González

**6:00p-6:15p Closing Remarks - Margaret Morse and B. Ruby Rich**

**6:15p-7:30p Reception at Sesnon Gallery, Porter College**

Sponsored by the Center for Art and Visual Studies (CAVS)

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