

## ART2030 - Computers in Art Web Site Reviews

### GOAL:

To develop critical habits in approaching and using the World Wide Web as a source for art research, publication, and learning.

### DIRECTIONS:

Over the course of the semester, select two art-related Web sites for critical review. These sites may be sites that you find while surfing the Web. You must submit your written reviews to me via email at wes@forcedesign.com.

Use the following format for writing and submitting your reviews:

Reviewer's Name:

E-mail Address:

Date Reviewed:

Name of the Site:

Owner/Developer of the Site:

Date Created: (if available)

Last Site Update: (if available)

URL:

**Brief Description of the Site:** (in 1-2 sentences)

**Review:** In 3-4 paragraphs, write a critical review of the site with consideration given to the following questions as well as other appropriate criteria raised in class.

### Questions to Consider in Reviewing a Web Site:

1. **Author.** Who created this site? For what purpose? Does the site represent an individual? group? company? government agency? How reliable is the source? What underlying values, interests, biases, or motives are evident?
2. **Audience.** Who is the intended audience of this site? Is it directed at a specific group or broad audience? How inclusive is the content of the site with respect to a broad global audience?
3. **Attraction.** When you first arrive at the site, how easily are you able to determine what it's about, its purpose, or what you'll find there? To what extent does the opening page persuade you to explore the site further?
4. **Content.** What is the relative value of the content provided? How deep is it? How reliable is it? How accessible is it? To what extent does the presentation of the material engage or interest you? Is the material developed specifically for the Web or is it simply translated from another medium (e.g., print)?
5. **Site Design.** To what extent do the features and overall design of the site influence your experience? Are you a passive or an active viewer? Is the site design consistent throughout? Do screens pop up unexpectedly? Do the pages download relatively quickly? Are the pages well designed or too busy with no clear hierarchy? Is the text easy to read? Are graphics or images used effectively? To what extent are multi-media and interactive elements present and used effectively?
6. **Navigation.** How easy is it to find your way through the site? Do you end up in dead ends? Are navigational features clearly indicated? Are any "dead" links present? Is a site map or search engine provided? Is the site "user-friendly?"

7. **Summary Evaluation.** What are the positive and negative aspects of this site? Did you encounter any problems with the site? Would you recommend this site to others? Why or why not?

**Additional questions to consider depending on the nature and purpose of the site:**

**Artist Sites**

How is the Web used in this site? As an art medium in itself? As a performance medium? As a display medium for physical art work? Is the art presented as static, dynamic, or interactive? What benefits and drawbacks are evident in the use of the Web to display or disseminate this artist(s) work?

**Art Museum and Gallery Sites**

How is the art work organized and presented to viewers? Does the site provide information that places the work in an historical or aesthetic context? What other information or resources are available through the site and what is their relative value?

**Art Education Sites**

How appropriate and useful is the content provided for students? educators? others?

**Art Research Tools, Databases, and Filter Sites**

How relevant or useful are the material, tools or resources available through the site compared to what's available through traditional sources (e.g., school library or print media)?

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Each review will be evaluated on clarity, completeness, critical analysis, and presentation.