



News Release

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Press Contact: Nina J Berger, 617.543.1595
press@bostoncyberarts.org

'Augmented Reality' Exhibitions Transform Boston at the 2011 Boston Cyberarts Festival

***Interactive, Immersive Art at Four Sites in Boston's Innovation District:
ICA/Boston, the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway, the Boston Children's Museum,
and CyberartsCentral at Atlantic Wharf***

Boston, MA - One of the fastest growing areas in the cyber world is augmented reality (AR), a new technology that brings virtual objects into our real world. Using smartphone apps, experience the occupation of the Greenway, Boston Children's Museum, and CyberartsCentral at Atlantic Wharf by virtual alien invaders in a project mixing alien invasion mythology with a cartoon-like esthetic; and see a virtual exhibition of work by Manifest.AR, an international roster of cyber artists, in and around the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.

During this year's Boston Cyberarts Festival (April 22 – May 8), augmented reality (AR) interventions, which superimpose computer-generated graphics onto real time environments, can be experienced at several locations in Boston's Innovation District:

Mark Skwarek's "Occupation Forces"

Occupation Forces is an augmented reality art project that allows the public to experience the invasion of the public space around them by aliens. These invaders can only be seen with the use of a smart phone, equipped with a special alien detection app. Otherwise, the invasion takes place undetected by an unsuspecting population. As users cross the length of the Greenway Park, and are on their way to visit CyberartsCentral and the Boston Children's Museum, they will encounter the invaders at multiple locations. They will witness the occupation intensify as they near the center of the Greenway park and the aliens interact with other park users, attempting to control foot traffic. Viewers experience an unfolding narrative through time and space, transforming daily real-world existence into something visually stunning and otherworldly. The project encourages people to explore the urban environment, letting them see the world like they never have before. For instructions visit:www.occupationforces.com/greenway.html.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, CyberartsCentral at Atlantic Wharf, and Boston Children's Museum, Apr.22 - May 24, FREE Opening Reception | Fri, Apr 22 | 5-8pm @ CyberartsCentral at Atlantic Wharf, 290 Congress St., Boston, manifest.ar.founder@gmail.com, www.occupationforces.com

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Manifest.AR@ICA

Manifest.AR, an international artists collective working with emergent forms of augmented reality as interventionist public art, will be creating a virtual exhibition in and around Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art. The group sees this medium as a way of transforming public space and institutions by installing virtual objects and artworks, which respond to and overlay the configuration of located physical meaning. Utilizing this technology as artwork is an entirely new proposition and explores all that we know and experience as the mixture of the real and the hyperreal. Physically, nothing changes, the audience can simply download and launch an Augmented Reality Browser app on their iPhone or Android and aim the devices' camera to view the world around them. The application uses geolocation software to superimpose computer generated three-dimensional art objects, enabling the public to see the work integrated into the physical location as if it existed in the real world.

Manifest.AR@ICA includes **Mark Skwarek's** *Parade to Hope*, located in the Boston Harbor, Emerson College's **John Craig Freeman's** *Tank Man* and *Goddess of Democracy (Tiananmen SquARed)*, **Tamiko Thiel's** *Jasmine Rain*, a soft-curtain of Jasmine flowers falling around a golden cage that surrounds the viewer, and **Will Pappenheimer's** signature psychedelic AR toads. **Geoffrey Alan Rhodes** will be exhibiting a new work titled *MaoDoll(ar)*. **Sander Veenhof**, who made the world's biggest AR work, a carpet of cubes surrounding the entire earth, will be presenting a minimalist take on the AR titled *1px*.

Manifest.AR, or its members (the collective was recently founded in January of 2011), have participated in AR interventions at the Museum of Modern Art, Statue of Liberty, Venice Biennial, the White House and the Pentagon.

Participating artists: Mark Skwarek, John Craig Freeman, Will Pappenheimer, Tamiko Thiel, Sander Veenhof, Virta-Flaneurazine, Patrick Lichty, Lily & Honglei (China), Christopher Manzione, Arthur Peters, Geoffrey Alan Rhodes, Nathan Shafer, Joseph Hocking, 4 Gentlemen, Damon Baker, John Cleater

Instructions for Manifest.AR@ICA:

- 1) Download the Layar Augmented Reality browser to your iPhone or Android, www.layar.com
- 2) Launch the app and search "Manifest.AR" or click on m.layar.com/open/mainfestarica

Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston: 100 Northern Ave., Boston, MA 02210, **Apr 22 - May 8**
Admission: \$15 general admission, \$13 seniors, \$10 students, FREE members and youth 17 and under; Target Free Thursday Nights: FREE 5-9pm every Thurs, FREE for families (2 adults with children 12 & under) the last Sat of each month. Gallery Hours: Tues/Wed 10-5pm, Thurs/Fri 10-9pm, Sat/Sun 10-5pm.

Reception | Fri, Apr 22, 3-5pm Members of Manifest.AR will be hosting an informal educational conversation where the artists will demonstrate how to access the work and talk about individual projects outside on the deck at the ICA.

manifest.ar.founder@gmail.com, www.manifestarblog.wordpress.com/ICA

Also on view at the ICA:

The Record: Contemporary Art and Vinyl: From Jasper Johns to Davis Byrne, see how the vinyl record has inspired artists over the past 50 years

Catherine Opie: Empty and Full: Catherine Opie's photographs of American landscapes and people offer a moving portrait of the United States in the 21st century

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The 2011 Boston Cyberarts Festival takes place April 22 - May 8, 2011, when artists, dancers, musicians and visionary thinkers come together to bring the best in digitally inspired creativity

to Greater Boston. The Festival, a collaboration of visual and performing artists, cultural organizations, educators and high-technology professionals, takes place *in and around Boston* at museums, galleries, performing spaces, educational institutions, and on the web. Complete information about the Festival, including a searchable database of the more than 40 events and exhibitions, is available at www.bostoncyberarts.org/festival.

Further information on the Boston Cyberarts Festival is available by calling **617.524.8495** or emailing info@bostoncyberarts.org.

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Cyberart encompasses any artistic endeavor in which computer technology is used to expand artistic possibilities - that is, where the computer's unique capabilities are integral elements of the creative process in the same way that paint, photographic film, musical instruments, and other materials have always been used to express an artist's vision. The Boston Cyberarts Festival, launched by George Fifeild in 1999 with seed funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is the only Festival in the world that encompasses all art forms, including both visual and performing arts, film, video, electronic literature, public art, and web art.

Boston Cyberarts is grateful for the support of many generous individuals and institutions, including the Massachusetts Cultural Council, IBM, the Boston Cultural Council and Avid. Boston Cyberarts is proud to be a partner with Boston Properties and Atlantic Wharf, and the Boston Children's Museum. Dig Boston is the media sponsor.

Press contact: Nina J Berger, 617.543.1595, press@bostoncyberarts.org.

High and low-resolution DOWNLOADABLE images are available at bostoncyberarts.org/festival/pressimages

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Boston Cyberarts Festival
Administrative Offices: 9 Myrtle Street, Boston, MA 02130
Telephone 617.524.8495
Fax 617.524.9968 www.bostoncyberarts.org
info@bostoncyberarts.org

