

CAMILLE UTTERBACK

Internationally Acclaimed Artist

Stepping into the Unknown, and Other Rational Decisions

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Zoellner Arts Center, Baker Hall



Camille Utterback is an internationally acclaimed artist whose interactive installations and reactive sculptures engage participants in a dynamic process of kinesthetic discovery and play. Ms. Utterback's work explores the aesthetic and experiential possibilities of linking computational systems to human movement and gesture in layered and often humorous ways. Her work has been featured in *Art in America*, *Wired Magazine*, *ARTnews* and *The New York Times*. A current MacArthur Foundation Fellow and recipient of a Transmediale International Media Art Festival Award, Ms. Utterback's public commissions include works for Sacramento Airport, the Citis of San Jose and Fontana, California, and St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and projects for The American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, the Manhattan Children's Museum, and private corporations. Utterback holds a BA in Art from Williams College, and a Masters degree from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She lives and works in San Francisco.

Artist Camille Utterback's interactive installations and reactive sculptures explore the possibilities of linking computational systems to human movement and gesture in layered and playful ways. Her work focuses attention on the continued relevance and richness of our bodies in an increasingly mediated world. In *Text Rain* (1999), participants use their bodies to catch and play with projected lines of a poem. In the *External Measures* series (2001–2007) a set of dynamic interactive drawings links past and current movement in a space. More recently, Utterback has begun creating larger scale architecturally integrated commissions, such as *Aurora Organ* (2009) in which light columns hanging over a stairwell respond to people touching a hand railing below. She is currently working on a piece for the Sacramento airport where animations across fourteen LCD screens change and evolve based on elevator movement in the terminal.

For her talk, Utterback will show documentation of her projects and process, and discuss her attempts to combine the analog and digital realms to create compelling experiences. Questions explored will range across disciplines. What is the balance between clarity and complexity that makes an interactive system easily understood yet retains people's interest? What does it mean to consider software coding as a creative practice? What role does good design play in interactive art installations? How does working with a team of architects, engineers and clients change one's artwork? Is it possible to work at the bleeding edge of technology, with a miniscule budget, and avoid disaster? How are all our lives an act of creative story telling? And finally, what happens if we propose that technology does not exist?

Inspire. Create. Serve.

The 2011 Academic Symposium

For more information on the symposium please visit:

<http://www.lehigh.edu/symposium/>