Get out your 3D glasses for ‘hallucinatory’ Brisbane Festival exhibition
Australian premiere of major new-media work

QUT Creative Industries Precinct, the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (UK) and Brisbane Festival 2009 present the Australian premiere of Ulf Langheinrich's LAND, to be opened by Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini on Tuesday 15 September.

LAND, which debuted at the 2008 Liverpool Biennial (UK), continues the German artist's pioneering exploration into sensory immersive environments, at the core of his recent artistic research into the nature of digital illusion.

It will be seen for the first time in Australia from 15 September to 1 October at QUT’s The Block, as a feature of the 2009 Brisbane Festival.

The opening night event at Kelvin Grove will also showcase two other Brisbane Festival events; an appearance by the Total Nowhere Emotion Expansion mobile new media art gallery and Ben Knapton's work-in-progress Genesis.

LAND is a triple-screen digital landscape rendered solely out of two algorithms that create pure noise; the work — viewed through hi-tech 3D glasses — has no conceptual agenda, but it is intended to have hallucinatory effects on the viewer.

Through its sheer immensity and use of pulsing repetition it induces a changed state of consciousness, or, as Langheinrich says, ‘an altered state of reality’.

Langheinrich, who lives and works in Accra (Ghana), is a new-media artist whose visual work is characterised by high resolution images leading to pulsating planes, stripes and visual vibrations, which, along with the choreographed soundscape, produce rich experiences of sensory deprivation and overload.

Langheinrich's fascination for such sensory conditions, leading to an understanding and appreciation of life through his senses, stems from his early childhood. Born in Wolfen, Germany, he spent his first two years in hospital with a severe ear condition, and had a hearing impediment until he was six.

"The perceptive state of somewhat sleepless nights with a certain degree of pain - you’re kind of unsettled, but you surrender to the situation. It’s not so terrible that there’s no escape; just kind of half-alert, half-sedated - it’s a very interesting and very familiar state for me,” he said.

LAND was commissioned for the Liverpool Biennial by FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology), the UK’s leading organisation for commissioning, exhibiting, promoting and supporting artists’ work and innovation in the fields of film, video, and new media. Established in 1998, Liverpool Biennial is the UK’s largest and most widely reviewed festival of contemporary visual art.

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Ulf Langheinrich will be in Brisbane in September, with interviews and photo opportunities available on request. Due to the pioneering and experiential nature of the work, good quality high-res images are limited -- an interview/photograph of the artist is recommended.
LAND: Ulf Langheinrich

Opening Tuesday 15 September, 6.00pm
Exhibition continues to 1 October, open Tuesday-Friday from 2.00pm-6.30pm
The Block, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, cnr Kelvin Grove Road and Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove Urban Village
Admission is free

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Ulf Langheinrich

Born in 1960, Germany. Lives and works in Vienna (Austria) and Accra (Ghana).

Moving to West Germany in 1984, Langheinrich set up a studio for electronic music and developed the basics of his musical language and engaged in painting, drawing and photography.

In 1988, he left for Vienna and the Werkstätten und Kulturhaus (WUK). From 1988 to 1991, he devoted himself again to regular painting and drawing; these years testify to a rich and productive artistic diversity. During this time, he was also involved in the founding of the multimedia group PYRAMEDIA and had joined the board of directors of the independent cultural organisation WUK for two years.

In 1991, he co-founded the sonic art collaboration GRANULAR SYNTHESIS with Kurt Hentschlaeger. Producing a number of international large scale projects, they have exhibited and performed at the Museum for applied Arts ICA London, Hull Time based Art, MAK Vienna, Museums of Contemporary Arts of Lyon, Montréal and Seoul, The Stedelijk Museum, Kunstverein Hanover, ISEA Montréal and Liverpool, ICC Tokyo, Creative Time New York and the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2001.

Since 2003, Ulf Langheinrich has started to realize various large scale solo projects including DRIFT and HEMISPHERE. He has exhibited solo work across Europe, Asia and Australia – at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). He was featured artist at Ars Electronica 2005.

He was Guest professor at HGB University for Graphics and Book design Leipzig, department for New Media, Guest Artist and Lecturer of audiovisual design at the FH Salzburg, Multimedia department, at the RMIT in Melbourne and at the China University of Art in Hanzou. Ulf has collaborated with Japanese dancer Akemi Takeja (CELL and WEATHERING) and Toshiko Oiwa (MOVEMENT A) as well as British Artist Gina Czarnecki (SPINTEX), whose CONTAGION work debuted at Brisbane Festival 2008.

Website: http://www.epidemic.net/geogb/art/gs/ulf/indexgb.html

Acknowledgements
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