Brisbane Festival Exhibition Fuses Art + Biotechnology
Queensland University of Technology and Brisbane Festival 2008 present Contagion

A major new interactive work exploiting the blurred boundaries between art and science will premiere in Brisbane on 18 July as a feature of the 2008 Brisbane Festival.

Czarnecki has chosen to unveil her latest cutting edge work in Brisbane because of the city’s growing international reputation as a contemporary arts hub.

Contagion is a walk-through video installation which relies on audience interaction to influence the intensely visual and sonic environment.

The interaction reveals a compelling new-media work that draws parallels between the biological spread of disease and the dissemination of information, ideas and beliefs in society.

Recognised for leading a new artistic genre fusing traditional ideas about art with new technologies, Czarnecki not only enlisted world-class programmer Tim Kreger and renowned electronic musician and composer Christian Fennesz to devise Contagion’s wholly immersive soundscape, she also consulted several leading communicable diseases experts to accurately reproduce the viral nature of communication.

The installation will be presented on a scale not previously possible before the opening of QUT’s high-tech exhibition space The Block, taking up most of The Block’s 22m (l) x 12m (w) x 9m (h) space.

For further information on the artist and exhibition philosophy, please visit www.ginaczarnecki.com.

CONTAGION
Open to the public: 19 July to 3 August 2008 (Tues-Sun)
Hours: 11am–5pm
Showing at: The Block, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Cnr Kelvin Grove Road and Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove
Phone: (07) 3138 5495
Email: cipprecinct@qut.com
Web: www.cipprecinct.qut.com or www.brisbanefestival.com.au

**Gina Czarnecki is available for interviews and photos upon request**
About the artist
Gina Czarnecki is a British artist whose work crosses multiple genres and platforms.

Developed in collaboration with biotechnologists, computer programmers, dancers and sound artists, Czarnecki’s films and installations are informed by human relationships to image, disease, evolution, genetic research, and by advanced technologies of image production.

Through editing sound and image at a micro-level, using bespoke effects and processes, the artist constructs vivid, highly aesthetic spaces. Her work engages the viewer through its scale, beauty and occasionally through interactive technologies.

Czarnecki’s work has been exhibited internationally at major museums and festivals including the Natural History Museum, London; Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne; Adelaide Film Festival; Ars Electronica, Linz. In 2006, she was commissioned to make Spine, a large-scale video work for outdoor projection, which was exhibited at the AV Festival, Newcastle, UK and as part of the Laneways public art programme, Melbourne.

She won the prestigious Creative Scotland Award in 2002 for work on her interactive installation Silvers Alter, a Fleck Fellowship with the Banff Centre, Canada in 2004, and a Wellcome Trust Sci-Art Award in 2005 for production of Contagion. Her film, Nascent, has been screened extensively across the world, winning several awards and prizes.

Gina Czarnecki lives and works in Liverpool, UK.

Acknowledgements

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Sound by Christian Fennesz.
Programming by Tim Kreger.
Consultant scientists: Stephen Corbett, Nick Crofts, James Fielding and Keith Skene
Interactivity consultant: Lizzie Muller
Image research: Damien Pierce
Technical assistance: Damien Blythe