

AUSTRALIA 2003 Telecommunications Event

On the 20 and 21 of April 1983 Eric Gidney from the City Art Institute and visiting American artist Tom Klinkowstein produced a telecommunications event involving nearly 100 art students and artists in five locations across Australia.

Using telecopiers (photocopy-like machines used to send paper images on a telephone line), Eric Gidney and Tom Klinkowstein co-ordinated the project which included participants in Sydney, Newcastle, Adelaide and Perth.

The visual portion of the event took place between 9.30am on the 20 and 3pm on the 21, during which time participants at all locations sent and received facsimile prints based on the theme of "Australia 20 years in the future". By 3pm on the 21, all locations had a complete set of prints. The exchange of the facsimiles was followed by a five-way speaker phone audio conference to access the contents, aesthetics and technology involved.

Tom Klinkowstein, who has produced telecommunications events and performances throughout Europe and the United States conceived the project as a way of exposing the participants to the new telecommunications technologies and the new "electronic living space" that he believes will be an important creative environment for artists in the near future.

Mr Klinkowstein was brought to Australia by Eric Gidney and the City Art Institute with funding provided by the Australia Council for a 3 week lecture tour on his work with international performances and electronic art forms.

The Australia 2003 project was coordinated by these artists and institutions:

Sydney CAE: Eric Gidney (City Art Institute)
NSWIT: John Vitlin & Bronwyn Holland (Media Centre)
Experimental Arts Foundation, Adelaide: David Kerr & Chris Goodwin
Newcastle CAE: Gary Sangster
Mediaspace, Perth: Alan Vizents

We would like to thank 3M Australia, Canon, I.P. Sharp, Multiphone, Polaroid & Baltronics for their generous cooperation in this project.

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