

E-Poetry / Electronic Poetry Center
Department of Media Study
SUNY Buffalo

2011-2012: Report to the Community

We are pleased to thank you for your support and to report this past year's E-Poetry / EPC contributions to the community! As you can see, we have been actively extending word about digital literature, with a slant on poetics, process, and their larger connections (with attention to younger artists, cultural expression, and modes of performance), to the artistic, academic, and international communities. This tenth anniversary year of E-Poetry provided a number of breakthroughs!

RECENT EVENTS:

- E-Poetry 2011, University at Buffalo, May 18-21, 2011. Most of you know about E-Poetry. Last year it was centered at the Center for the Arts, north campus, SUNY Buffalo. There were also events at a number of other venues, including a special pre-Festival evening at the Buffalo arts community's Squeaky Wheel Center and a Digital Humanities Conference at UB's world-renowned Poetry Collection. The event involved over a hundred participants from thirty plus countries across ten venues. It included performances, papers, talks, readings, and both dance concert and musical events, across a range of digitally-related, cultural diverse, and celebratory artistic modes. Evening events included presentations by world-acclaimed artists, diverse but invested in language, performance, and the digital, including a program of digital poetry and dance, Charles Bernstein, Upton/Beigbe, Joan LaBarbara, and Telmary, among others, along with numerous leading digital poetry artists. We plan to have our documentation up this summer, where you have access to some useful resources for your own work, your archives, and your teaching.
- E-Poetry Across the Frontiers Visiting Digital Artists & Scholars Series, Fall 2011. This series, with the New York Council for the Humanities, included invited guests for individual visits, with the opportunity for varied and in-depth presentations. The idea was to give these artists and scholars the opportunity to present their ideas through in-depth talks to varied audiences, as a way of extending their voices, ideas, and publics. The EPC was pleased to host four visitors -- Lizabel Mónica, Nick Montfort, Jerome Rothenberg, and Terry Harpold -- and extends our thanks!
- "Language to Cover a Wall" Exhibition, UB Art Gallery, Nov 17 - Feb 18, 2012. Perhaps the longest and one of the largest digital poetry exhibitions yet to occur in the U.S. This event featured numerous E-Poetry participants. The exhibition occupied the entire second floor above an exhibition of treasures of visual experimental poetry from the Poetry Collection and Poetics faculty. Notably, "Language to Cover a Wall" presented works of digital poetry, many viewed in four distinct settings: the gallery exhibition,

choreographed for dance performance, in performance by the poets themselves, and in scholarly conversation, allowing attendees to see a work of art in a range of forms of presentation.

◇ Exhibition Documentation will soon be posted.

◇ EPC Digital Poets-In-Residence: jhave and Ian Hatcher. A special thanks to jhave and Ian Hatcher who participated as E-Poetry Digital-Poets-in-Residence this February. These residents gave in-depth papers and talks, worked with choreographers on a professional digital poetry / dance performance, and were also given time to themselves to devote to their own creative work. We feel privileged to have had them here at Buffalo.

◇ "Language to Cover a Wall" Digital Poetry & Dance, Feb. 3, 2012. A specially-conceived festival of theater dance with works by some exhibition participants specially choreographed for performance.

◇ "Language to Cover a Wall" Digital Poetry Talks and Performances, Feb. 4, 2012: Amaranth Borsuk, Jason Lewis, Nestor Cabrera, Tammy McGovern. Stunning presentations!

- E-Poetry Summer Intensive 2012 Buffalo (May 16-18). An exploration of the possibilities of creative conversation and collaborative thinking, with generous and respectful time for all, on projects, processes, ideas. With a special emphasis on the work of E-Poetry's six EPC Summer Intensive 2012 Fellows Mauro Carassai (Italy), Erica Cope (Comp Lit, UB), Leonardo Flores (Puerto Rico), Holly Melgard (English, UB), Laura Shackelford (RIT), and David Tolkacz (Media Study, UB).

I-2012 presents an engaging range of topics in and out of digital media and language, film, interactive art, and performance in an innovative format typified by human communication, generous presentation times, extended segments for response by peer scholars, and open and creative thinking as a group. The idea here is for presenters to propose their own field of references -- in an effort to enlighten themselves and to help others locate new resources for themselves -- in open conversations exploring connections. In terms of content, though numerous other venues exist for considerations of processor determined digital arts (the unreadable, machinic cum machinic, special effects, and data-dominant informatic), I-2012 focuses on the LANGUAGE edge of innovative emergent media practice, i.e. as we speak, read, and intimate, what is happening between the cracks in processing? Such attention is given as simply ONE relevant locus in the larger conversation and it is given cognizant that practice does not fall into distinguishable camps, but exist as contours within a larger media fabric. It asks: What are words when we "mean" through them? What language layers cascade in malleable forms? What our antecedents and contemporaries, without rigid adherence to genre, format, or theme? What are literary production, reading, and philosophy in reconfigured media landscapes? What is performance when language performs? Recognizing larger connections to poesis as artistic practice, what possibilities are there for extending the reach, impact, and reception of digital media? (Of course, if asked, each Fellow and Invited Speaker would

have a different proposal as to the topic of this event. Nothing could be better!) In this event we investigate a middle way in the often disparate field of approaches to digital media practice.

Perhaps a defining moment in the evolution of e-poetry and emerging poetics, the Buffalo E-POETRY SUMMER INTENSIVE may be of interest to you. Please stay tuned for future iterations!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- Announcement of E-Poetry 2013 COMING SOON. Months of planning and worldwide site-scouting will yield an imminent announcement!
- Launch of the EPC Digital Editions series. The EPC Digital Editions series is part of the soon-to-be-announced new EPC Digital Library (<http://epc.buffalo.edu/library/>) containing full-text works of innovative poetry, poetics, and digital poetics, in collaboration with PEPC (Penn). This Library presents re-issues of out-of-print gems in PDF, current works in digital format, and other full-text resources. The component EPC Digital Editions series will present short to long monographic works on topic essential to digital poetics, with an emphasis on language-related ("poetic") practice. Please keep tuned for announcement of new works in this series!
- Digital Poetry & Dance, Feb. 1, 2013. A new concert of digital poetry works, choreographed for dance for theatre!
- E-Poetry Summer Intensive 2013. A further exploration of the possibilities of creative conversation and collaborative thinking, building on I-2012's tremendous inaugural success.

As mentioned, we are working hard this summer on making available archival materials, documentation, and a variety of other materials. To be announced. Thanks to all for your contributions to these events!

E-Poetry and the EPC wish you glorious spring best from the Niagara frontier -- a place that can suddenly astonish, at times, radiant beyond belief.