

UAM CSULB NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

77 Million Paintings by **BRIAN ENO**

Exclusive Southern California Engagement – September 10 - December 13, 2009

LONG BEACH — The University Art Museum is proud to present Brian Eno's installation, *77 Million Paintings*, from September 10th through December 13th, 2009, with a reception scheduled on Saturday, September 12th at 6 pm. Variations on the installation have been exhibited internationally, but never in Southern California.

Using sophisticated computer software and audio boom boxes, *77 Million Paintings* features constantly changing images and musical compositions, which challenge the notion that the artist must be in control. Eno's input simply sets the trajectory for the work to evolve into patterns that have the potential for surprising him as well as the audience. With carefully designed lighting, relaxed seating, and strategically placed speakers, viewers enjoy an experience that is continuously evolving. The exhibition consists of a wall of twelve monitors (of varying dimensions) that reflect the parameters Eno has programmed into several computers. The images slowly transform into a virtually endless series of visual configurations. Seating in the gallery allows viewers to comfortably enjoy the "paintings" for any length of time. Because the black carpeting and dark walls block out available lighting, specially designed lights guide viewers through the galleries. With large cones made of Vermiculite and suspended trunks of silver birch trees providing illumination, gallery audiences can walk freely through the space and choose to view the monitors or sit in the audio room where a new music composition by Eno will be playing.



In conjunction with *77 Million Paintings*, the UAM and the Carpenter Performing Arts Center will present **An Evening with Brian Eno** on **September 20, 2009**. This exclusive U.S. engagement—open to the public in the 1,000-seat theater—will be part of the UAM **WIDE ANGLE** series. Tickets will be available on-line only, on June 1, 2009 at www.carpenterarts.org.

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During the 1990s, Eno became increasingly interested in self-generating systems. Generative Art, as he called it, allows an artwork to take on a life of its own. Generative Music, for example, blends several independent musical tracks in such a way that the listener could hear an almost infinite array of permutations. Eno soon realized that he had hit on a new cultural nerve. Today the idea has spread to graphic arts, design and beyond. In his major Generative Art project, *77 Million Paintings*, Eno creates audio and visual clusters, gives them a set of rules they must follow, and observes them forming and re-forming their own little artistic communes. He states:

They are living an independent life, and they keep doing things that still surprise me . . . The combinations are much more various and startling that I could have imagined. This is a very good example of a piece that started with quite a simple ambition and without very high hopes and it's so far exceeded . . . I'm very surprised by it and very thrilled by it.

Background: Brian Peter George St. John le Baptiste de la Salle Eno was born in Suffolk, England in 1948. After graduating from Winchester School of Art, Eno began experimenting with the medium of television and manipulating light. He, soon thereafter, became internationally known for his work as a musical collaborator with international rock musicians including Roxy Music, U2, Talking Heads, David Bowie, Robert Fripp, and others. His series of ambient music records feature an atmospheric instrumental sound that found expression in both New Age and Minimalist work.

EVENTS

- Sept 12 6-8 PM Public Reception with talk by Christopher Scoates
- Sept 15 UAM@noon, Multi-media Gallery talk 12:15-1 PM by Rychard Cooper,
CSULB Sound Technician and Electronic Music Instructor
- Sept 20 An Evening with BRIAN ENO @ The Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts
7 PM – Join us as Eno shares insight into his music and his art, and what lies ahead
for this pioneering innovator.
Tickets: www.carpenterarts.org beginning June 1 online only.

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Press images of UAM exhibitions are available on our FTP site - please send an email requesting directive on how to access. Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The UAM wishes to thank Lumen London, and Gregory Fuller from European Dynamic Lighting, LLC of Los Angeles for their support of the *77 Million Paintings* exhibition. UAM exhibitions are made possible by the Bess Hodges Foundation, Constance W. Glenn Fund for Exhibition and Education Programs, Instructionally Related Activities Fund, and WIDE ANGLE Fund for Art + Technology.

Image Credits: Brian Eno, *Naples*; portrait of Brian Eno; courtesy of the artist and Lumen (London) Limited.

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