“Ylem” is the primordial Stuff out of which
the universe emerged.

JANUARY 1984
VOL. 3 ISSUE 4

San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut, S.F.

since the december 4th meeting occurred during the big storm and several speak-
ers never arrived, we’re scheduling them again. please note new location directions on next page. free - open to all - bring friends, bring art to share.

- emily du bois: "woven music" starring the loom and the player piano.
- kevin o'farrell: "bionics: learning from natural systems".
- robert mckim: "how to ask fruitful questions".
- will mangan: "crystal spheres" videotape.
- "protein synthesis" - a film.

February 4
2-5:30
CALENDAR

CADRE - Computers in Art, Design, Research, Education - Registration % West Valley College Fdn, 14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga, CA atn: Gerald Sharp. Info: 408-277-2555. Conference and events:

Jan. 7-8  CADRE PUBLIC ADMISSION DAYS - $5, Mission College, Santa Clara (by Great America off Hwy. 101).
9-5 pm

Jan. 9-11  CADRE CONFERENCE - Mission College, Santa Clara, (by Great America off Hwy. 101). $85, $35 per day. Students: $60, $20 per day.

Jan. 11-14  CADRE TEACHER'S INSTITUTE - San Jose State Univ., downtown San Jose. $100, enrollment limited to 70 participants.

OTHER EVENTS


Jan. 7-14  Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Av, Santa Clara: COMPUTER T-F 12-4 GENERATED ART, Max Almy, Glen Scattleberry, Jim Haygood, and Darryl Sapien.
5-S 12-5

8 PM


Jan. 11  Foothill Library, Room 8: LECTURE - "COMPUTER-ASSISTED ETCHING" by Edith Smith.
3 pm

NOW -  San Jose Museum, 110 S. Market, San Jose: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPUTER-DRIVEN SCULPTURE, Milton Komisar
Jan. 15

Jan. 21 T-S 12-4

NOW -  San Jose Art Center, 482 S. 2nd St., San Jose: INTERACTIVE COMPUTER INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCE, Pat Carillo and Mark Fuoco.
Jan. 28

NOW -  San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (SJICA), S.J.: COMPUTER ART Ken Knowlton, Aaron Marcus, Edith Smith, Michael Arent, Darcy Gerberg, Joel Stayton.
Feb. 3

Jan. 7-  Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center, 550 E. Remington, Sunnyvale:"THE ELECTRONIC INFLUENCE", Dan Cooper and Luz Bueno.
Feb. 5

Jan. 13  Reception: "The Electronic Influence" with DANCE PERFORMANCE AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC. (address above).
7-9:30

NOW -  City Hall Lobby, 250 Hamilton, Palo Alto: VACUUM-FORMED PAPER IMAGES - ARTIFACTS OF SILICON VALLEY, Mary Chomenko.
Feb. 10 M-F 8-5

NOW -  School of Humanities and Sciences, Bidg. 1, Stanford University: Feb. 17 INVERSIONS, Scott Kim.

NOW -  THE ART OF ROBERT BAKMAN - exquisite wildlife paintings, CA Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, S.F.
Jan. 15

7:30 pm

★ Feb. 2  LOGO INTEREST GROUP, first meeting at Trudy Reagan's, 967 Moreno, Palo Alto. Plans to meet monthly. 415-856-9593.
8 pm

★★ Feb. 4  "ONGOING PROCESS" YLEM MEETING: note new location! San Francisco Art Institute Auditorium, 800 Chestnut St., S.F. The school's parking lot is on Jones, or use limited on-street parking, or take #30 Stockton bus to Bimbo's 365 Club and walk uphill.
2-5:30

★ Mar. 3  FIELD TRIP AND SKETCH PARTY AT THE TREE CIRCUS, Santa Cruz. $10 donation to save the trees. Reserv. & Info: Shoshana, 415-221-3595.
10-3 pm
NOW


☆ Apr. 7

NEXT YLEM MEETING AT STANFORD. Details, next newsletter.

OPPORTUNITIES AND COURSES

Register Now
NEXA SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES PROGRAM, S.F. State Univ.: Classes begin late January. 1600 Holloway, San Francisco 94132

Register Now

Due Jan. 13
26th ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL entries, incl. video. Info: EFLA, 45 John St. #301, N.Y. N.Y. 10038, 212-227-5599.

Due Jan. 16
SACRAMENTO LIGHT RAIL ART PROGRAM entries for banners, tree grates, pavement treatments, bike lockers. Info: Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 1221 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-449-5558

Due Jan. 18
COMMISSIONS FOR 3 ENTRYWAYS, Oakland. Gateways installed for 3 mos. at outdoor sites. Budget: $6000 ea. Send letters of interest, up to 15 slides, resume, SASE to Barbara Tomash, dir. Art Programs, Festival at the Lake, Oakland, CA 94612, 415-893-0677.

Jan. 19
INTERACTIVE VIDEODISK WORKSHOP with Michael Naimark: Bay Area Video Coalition, 1111 17th St., S.F. 94107, 415-661-3202.

Due Feb. 7
14TH ANNUAL NAT'L EDUCATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL entries. Info: Sue Davies, Nat'l Ed. Film Festival, 1025 2nd Av, Oakland, CA 94606, 415-463-6885.

Due Feb. 15
WARM SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER, City of Fremont, 2-D or 3-D projects: $5000. Info by mail only: Tonia MacNeil, Warm Springs Art Project, Community Services Dept., P.O. Box 5006, Fremont CA 94537

Also: Resources and instructors needed for a computer graphics program for U.C. Extension in Palo Alto. Info: Janale Donaldson, 415-856-0424.
A BANNER YEAR

In 1983, almost every month featured a novel Ylem activity - none of which were newsworthy. First, an outline of our basic program, and thanks to all who have kept it going:

Bi-monthly meetings - thanks to CCAC and The Stanford Computer Arts Society for arranging meeting space, and to Deanne Delbridge and Louis Brill for program planning.

Meetings for the Coming Year - are tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday of even-numbered months, so mark your calendars!

Discussion Notes - ("Finding the Soul in Computer Art") and Field Notes (Geology field trip) by T. M. Reagan were made available thanks to Lois Johnson (for typing).

Bi-Monthly Newsletters - always the biggest job and expense. Thanks to Luanne Hicks, editor, and Melody Trapp, layout.

Nationwide Networking - a sixth of our membership is out-of-State. Thanks to Eleanor Kent for spreading the word at SIGGRAPH.

Also helping since June: Tom Pressburger, treasurer, Dolores Heggie and Robin Samelson, membership, and Leslie Masunaga, non-profit status. Thanks!

YLEM EVENTS 1983

January:
Computer Art Exhibit curated by Eleanor Kent at Gallery Sanchez, San Francisco. Reviewed by S. F. Examiner.

February:

May:
Yellow Pages project inaugurated by Louis Brill: to be directory of our talents.

June:
Two-day Geology Field Trip to San Mateo County Coast with Clyde Spencer.

July:
Computer Art Show with 17 Ylem artists at Great American Arts Festival, San Jose. It paid costs, we curated, designed, and installed show. A monumental effort! 40 people helped. Conceived and co-ordinated by Trudy Myrrh Reagan and Lillian Quirk. Article in City Arts Magazine, San Francisco, and ETV interview with two Ylem artists.

August - October:
CADE Conference assistance in result - 19 Ylem artists will be included in conference, program, and exhibits.

September:
Computer Graphics field trip to Aurora Systems and Lawrence Hall of Science. Arranged by Shoshana Dubner.

October - November:
Open Studio Get-togethers with Jerome Kirk, Trudy Myrrh Reagan, and Dave Cameron.

December:
High-Tech Art Exhibit at Olive Hyde Gallery, Fremont; included 5 Ylem artists.

OUR INTERACTIVE NEWSLETTER - Where to get very large handcopy was the subject of a query. In the March 1983 newsletter, Bill Henderson replied: "For GIANT INK-JET REPRODUCTION (developed for billboards), try: SCANIMURAL, 3-M Center Bldg., 552-1W, St. Paul, MN 55144 or phone 612-779-5605; also, GENERAL GRAPHICS SERVICES, 7408 Brannan, S.F., or phone 415-777-3333." (Note: It's expensive).
A more recent query about crystal growth brought several replies that we plan to piggy-back. The newsletter may be a vehicle for answering one of your naggling questions. Send to Ylem, 957 Moreno, Palo Alto and we'll include it if space permits.
YLEM NOTES

On Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 PM, the Ylem board will meet to discuss "What Next?!" at the home of Deanne Delbridge, 2990 Jackson #2, San Francisco. Top on the list will be strengthening program of meetings and publications, and selecting an administrative replacement for our director, Trudy Reagan, beginning in June. "I was unemployed when I started Ylem three years ago," she says. "Now I'm doing teaching, writing, illustration, and exhibit work. Her professional obligations are limiting her effectiveness."

Next on the list is implementation of the many useful suggestions made at the Open Studio Get-Togethers this Fall. We have identified some goals within reach:

VID-ART - Louis Brill suggests: "It's time to create an Ylem open studio, where interested artists could arrange to have their artistic trips videotaped as part of an overall video project to document the various activities of the Ylem community. I'm sure that the group has both video equipment and/or expertise as well as artists who wish to participate. Presentations that were successful at our bi-monthly forums may be re-created for our tape.

"After the final edit we will try to have the tape broadcast on cable TV, and use it when seeking grants for various projects. If you want to participate either as a videographer or as an artist, send a brief note to Ylem marked VID-ART."

Already, a person with access to equipment has expressed an interest in helping, Ken Sakatani. Tapes already exist of some members' work that they may wish to insert.

A FORUM FOR SHARING - Janaia Donaldson will organize the Oct. 13 meeting program which will consist of a "full-treatment" slide show (co-ordinated images, music) of members' work, videotapes, and actual works on display. Louis Brill expects that the fabled Yellow Pages will be making its tentative appearance by then. There is still time to fill out questionnaires (write Ylem for one) and mail to the address on the back. Also, every member is urged to send two slides for the show and the permanent file. Send duplicates, not originals labeled with title, medium, top, and your name and address. With luck, the vid-techs will have the Ylem tape itself to show. There may be time in the program for some performance art.

Janaia Donaldson is a graphic designer/art director, illustrator, and graphics instructor. With clients such as "Music from the Hearts of Space," she is trying to bring harmonic images into commercial use. She would like to locate more images that are new ways of seeing deeply into the order of the universe.

"HOW-TO" PARTIES - Three members, Eleanor Kent, Mark Briggs, and Trudy Reagan have offered to host parties that explore the following subjects: photographing computer art off the display screen; easy Thermofax silkscreen printing; growing crystals to be seen under polarized light. Cook up your own party/learning experience and we'll put it on the calendar too.

INTEREST GROUPS that meet regularly are also encouraged. See calendar for LOGO Interest group starting in February.

NON-PROFIT STATUS - We now have a first draft of the bylaws, thanks to Leslie Marunaga. We have been offered help in filling out the forms by the lawyer who assists the Council for the Arts in Palo Alto and Midpeninsula.

PEOPLE able to help with hospitality, publicity, networking, or exhibits, write Ylem, or call Trudy at 415-855-9593.

SOURCES of extra money for videotaping, mailing for non-profit status, and other projects will be discussed at the Jan. 17th meeting. Memberships now cover newsletter printing and meeting expenses, with little to spare.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - February 25th.

RENEWALS: Those of you who joined Ylem between October and March will find a colored envelope enclosed. Use it to remit your dues of $10 for the coming year.

DEPARTURES - LuAnne Hicks has taken a more demanding job and has had to resign as newsletter editor; and in the Spring, our program chairman, Deanne Delbridge, is moving to Paris! We have all benefited from the competence and enthusiasm they have shown us. Thank you!

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

AARON MARCUS writes: "I have just returned from Tokyo for the third time this year lecturing at Nitograph 83 on icons interfaces. In April I lectured at Imagraphics 83 and in October I lectured to the Japan Graphic Design Association on computer graphics. Aaron's work can be seen in art shows at SJICA and FootHill College during the CADRE conference.

VEDDER WRIGHT writes: "I'm filling my room here with polyhedra of all sorts and trying to judge the whole towards..."art...in preparation for graduate school...in sculpture and specializing in paper construction. If you hear of a good graduate art school having someone strong in paper construction and/or assembled to polyhedra, do let me know. Also, do you know the present whereabouts of Peter Pearce - author of STRUCTURES IN NATURE IS A STRATEGY FOR DESIGN?" (see address in Address Changes).

LOUIS BRILL had two articles published in the last year: "Multimedia - Tomorrow's entertainment today" in Multi-Images, Fall 1982, and "Planetary Theaters" in The Futurist a year ago December.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JOHN GREENHILL

John Greenhill is a nuclear engineer who has an idea that the only man-made objects being built today which will survive for two thousand years are the freeways and nuclear power stations. Just as we have inherited the Pyramids, and appreciate their aesthetic qualities, so we should be concerned about the qualities of these long-term constructs and spend a certain amount of money on non-functional aspects. As yet, the managers of the nuclear industry have not been persuaded of the viewpoint.

Besides engineering, John has interests in Bell’s Theorem, Calligraphy, and Soaring. If anyone would like a ride, he will be pleased to take them as a passenger.

DANIEL COOPER

"As an artist, I became interested in the great potential of computers for creative applications in 1979, and began to explore the use of computers as an artist’s tool. Having appreciated the beauty to be found in mathematics, I envisioned a possible union of science and art through the use of the computer. In addition, its incredible speed and accuracy would allow me to deal with levels of complexity and richness that surpassed my experience with traditional painting and drawing.

First, I studied computer programming, became familiar with various kinds of computer systems and started to experiment with creating expressive imagery in 1981, using an Atari 800. Eventually I obtained an Apple II and began working in earnest, developing my skills as a programmer and finding ways to generate imagery that reflected my feelings. When I began to utilize the mathematical curves known as sine waves, I became enraptured with the concept of generating landscape-type imagery through the juxtaposition of their rhythmic undulations. This experimentation led to my present "SineScape" series of serigraph prints.

I work in black and white on the computer, refining my program until I am satisfied with the result, which is then printed out on paper. The image is enlarged and reproduced as a photographic stencil for use in the silkscreening process. It is in this stage that I begin working with color, mixing the paints, pulling proof prints and eventually producing a limited edition on 100% rag paper.

In the "SineScape" series, I feel I am presenting an ideal harmony between technology and ecology."

TRUDY MYRH REAGAN

The process shown here is Shibori, a Japanese technique of sewing designs in cloth, gathering them tightly and dyeing in Indigo, then removing the stitches. The title of the piece, "Seismic Fuji," suggests that not only the snow and erosion patterns are of interest to me, but the earthquake vibrations from volcanic activity as well. Shown is a detail of the work. When fully spread out, one can see that the pattern on the piece is clearly derived from a harmonic wave pattern.

My early art training was representational. Some of it was at a Quaker school where, until a generation before, art had been considered frivolous and superfluous. In college abstract painting was taught and admired. It seemed like fiction to me. I reconciled these two approaches by using the abstract elements in scientific photos.

Art is my life, but as a Quaker I am estranged from many expectations of the art world. I distrust rich materials and spottily slick surfaces. I value art that is about something, whether phenomenon or a metaphor of an idea. I tend to ignore selling my work for working with projects where I can communicate ideas.

Using the visible aspects of science in my work encouraged me to explore science as a lay person. In the space and time in which I mentally position myself, science challenges me to grasp light years and nano seconds, and pushes me to the edge of paradox - a form of bewilderment I find congenial.

Through Ylem I have met the kinds of people I most enjoy talking with, and have even uncovered some niches in the art world where my work appears to fit.

(Trudy Myrh Reagan started Ylem in February 1981.)

RON COVELL

I was born in San Jose, California in 1944, and I have lived in Santa Clara County for most of my life. I started my college career as an Engineering major at San Jose State University, but I soon changed my major to Art and became involved in making sculpture. My early work was in laminated wood and welded metal, but after doing some experiment with polyester casting resins and acrylic plastics, I became fascinated with transparent objects and their optical and chromatic distortions. I received my M.A. degree from SJSU in 1976.

After graduating I established my own business doing metal fabrication. I spent nearly a year fabricating bronze sculptures for San Francisco artist Fletcher Benton. My next two major commissions were to build custom automobiles. The most recent of these cars has received much media attention and was featured in the "Crossover" show at the Helen Euphrat Gallery in January 1982.

I am currently involved in fabricating prototypes for several companies in the Silicon Valley, and I am becoming increasingly interested in computer graphics.

I am always interested in helping artists with any technical problems which are in my areas of expertise - welding, machine work, metal fabrication, and plastics fabrication.
Contributors: Donaldson, Reagan, Zawadski

ISAST - International Society for the Arts, Sciences, and Technology. The board of Leonardo Magazine has formed an organization, the activities of which will be meetings, exhibits, workshops, the awarding of a yearly prize, as well as publishing the magazine. Truly interdisciplinary and international. $30 per year. ISAST, P.O. Box 427904, San Francisco, CA 94142.

CAMERA OBSCURA - Located on the terrace at the rear of Cliff House, San Francisco, CA. See the optical phenomenon described in the journals of Leonardo da Vinci. Tell him you're with Ylem, and member David Warren will give free admission.


ON SIZE AND LIFE by McMahon and Bonner (Scientific American Library, $24). Microscope, camera, and mathematical abstraction are used to illuminate the beautiful regularities of nature, bringing unity to the great diversity of shapes found on earth. Just out

THE ANATOMY COLORING BOOK by Kapit and Elson (Harper and Row, $9 pb). A self-study guide to the workings of the body. Whether you are doing life drawing, enjoy processes and plumbing, or wonder what all you, it is very useful.

Two books just out that explain computer graphics well to the non-specialist:

GENESIS II by Dale Peterson (Reston, $25). Enjoyable reading about computer graphics processes and where they came from. His portrayal of the artist's relation to technology through the ages helps to put computers in context.

COMPUTER IMAGES by Joseph DeKen (Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, $17, pb). Gives a much better idea, visually, of what is being done in computer graphics at the present state of the art. Full color throughout. Like his previous book, THE ELECTRONIC COTTAGE, this one is clear, vivid, concise.

For lovers of visual images that reflect the patterns of order in the universe, and often a transcendent view of life:

THE POWER OF LIMITS by Gyorgy Doczi (Shambala, 1981 $10) Full of graceful images and readable text relating the proportions of plants, animals, crafts, calendars, the musical scale, the golden mean, the Fibonacci Series. Not overly-technical.

FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE by Denis Pettee (Crowell, 1976, pb) A goldmine of images relating high-energy physics by analogy to the everyday world, pointing toward the Eastern philosophy of unity in the universe. One of the most beautiful spreads shows a field ion micrograph image of the structural patterns of tungsten; atop is the octagonal cupola of a chamber in the Alhambra Palace (Islamic architecture). Breathtaking!


SACRED GEOMETRY by Robert Lawlor (Crowood, 1982, $10 pb). Many images, readable text and basic exercises; relationships of geometry to music, art, and architecture.

AN ALBUM OF FLUID MOTION by Milton Van Dijk (Parabolic Press, P.O.Box 2032, Stamford, CA 94305 - $10 pb, $20 cloth) Photographic images of flow, fluids, wave patterns, undulates. Many of you will remember Milton's presentation at the January '83 Ylem meeting.

For lovers of music, vibrations, and harmonic motion:

THE WORLD OF SOUND by Sir William Brough (Dover Books)

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES by Guy Murchie (Dover Books)

GEOMETRY AND IMAGINATION by Hilbert and Cohn-Vossen (Chelsea Press, 1952). Shows how the grasp of mathematical concepts requires analyzing logical relations, and intuitive understanding, a live rapport with the objects studied.
Ylem

I would like to receive a sample issue. $1.00 is enclosed. 

To receive membership, send $10.00 enclosed from both San Francisco and Palo Alto. $2.00 is enclosed.

To: Ylem, 967 Main St., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

bizarre! botanical! arboreal! lovely!
trees with trunks & branches trained
to grow as spirals, hearts & lattices

For reservations & detailed instructions
call Shoshannah Dubinor 415-221-3505

Ylem Field Trip & Sketch Party...The Tree Circus in Santa Cruz

Saturday March 3, 1984...10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Proceeds from the tree circus fund

Lunch in Santa Cruz...$10.00 fee plus additional;

Bring camera & drawing materials.