

Ale Fernandez

I find myself working within a mixture of disciplines, coming from my background as a Chilean Refugee, or my studies in Natural Sciences, Computing and Music, but resulting in hybrid work reflecting all three areas, be it in a performance, installation, in media outputs or a workshop series.

Creative from an early age, I have always moved through different forms of expression and media, different musical instruments and styles and preferred the primal impulses of semi improvised composition and organisation to set methods or techniques. I am now beginning to see computing technology, multimedia and access to a huge vocabulary of styles and methods as the basic tools of a modern day artist, from which understandings spring and expression can flow.

Where I have been most satisfied with my work there has been a convergence of minds and skills, and a participative output. I wish to one day be able to express myself within the shared medium of IT culture, as well as I can with the strings of a guitar. My greatest inspiration has been the work of futurist and fluxus performance art - the mix of simplicity and mundanity with serious topics and performance. In a typical project there will be an online or technical aspect, the creation of an atmosphere or feel, and the ability to participate and openly give or take from it.

In my most recent performance, an adaptation of Alison Knowles' 1962 piece "Proposition No 2" at the Cube Cinema Microplex, Bristol, I asked members of the public, organic supermarkets and local gardening groups to grow and donate salad produce for a performance. This consisted of a 3 way video projection which brought together physical and filmed cooks chopping the salad, which was amplified and performed in a mock duet with a trio of musicians on stage. The performance ended when I drew volunteers from the audience to toss the salad together while ingredients were thrown from the roof of the building, before it was served on plates and eaten.

I am currently preparing a follow up to this, which will be an autonomous sound object to be placed in a garden, and able to "play the dawn" through a variety of sensors.

