IU South Bend Faculty Research Grant Final Report
Eric Souther, MFA
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Project Title: Dissecting Muybridge, 2014

ABSTRACT

Eadweard Muybridge created the first photographic systems to capture time in the late eighteen hundreds. His Zoopraxiscope was instrumental to the birth of the moving image. Muybridge used multiple cameras to capture stop-motion photographs that were organized chronologically in a grid. His research included capturing both human and animal locomotion. I am proposing a body of work that looks to animate Muybridge’s photographs and start a dialog with them. A dialog that looks to dissect, recombine, and re-contextualize the work, that both critiques and analyzes the language of film with immediacy of video. What new visual structures and or languages can be found?

DESCRIPTION OF GRANT-SUPPORTED ACTIVITY

I utilized the summer salary to dedicate my time in my studio, and did succeed in creating the three proposed works, and one unexpected performance. The works created are complete and include the following:

**Dissecting Muybridge – Part I: The Moving Image,**
Single channel video, 2014, 720 x 480 SD, 13min. 53sec.

**Dissecting Muybridge – Part II: Structures of Time,**
Single channel video, 2014, 720 x 480 SD, 14min. 57sec.

**Dissecting Muybridge – Part III: Limits of Chronophotography,**
Single channel video, 2014, 720 x 480 SD, 14min. 32sec.

Screening page: [http://unseensignals.com/dissectingscreening.html](http://unseensignals.com/dissectingscreening.html)

**Multiplying Muybridge**
Hybrid analog/digital performance, 2014, 720 x 480 SD Widescreen, 18-20min.

Screening page: [http://unseensignals.com/multiplying-muybridge.html](http://unseensignals.com/multiplying-muybridge.html)

PUBLICATION / EXHIBITION RESULTS

All the above works premiered at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, NY, in an exhibition titled Performing Media: Works by Signal Culture Artists in Residence; the exhibition was opened on September 20th, 2014 and ran till January, 15th, 2015. I flew out for the opening reception, and performed Multiplying Muybridge in the Everson’s auditorium as a part of a series of real-time audiovisual performances. I performed Multiplying Muybridge in progress a month earlier at The Urban Institute of Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, MI, for their first BYOB Grand Rapids (Bring Your Own Beamer, i.e. projector) event. I received further funding to complete the Multiplying Muybridge performance by an online group called workingartist.org, in the amount of one thousand dollars. Exhibiting at the Everson Museum meant a great deal to me, as it was one of the first museums in the country to exhibit video art. The work has since been exhibited, screened, and performed in many different venues around the country; please see full list below.
EXHIBITIONS

2015

New Media Arts Trail, Currents New Media Arts Trail, Center for the Arts, June 13 –
August 1, 2015, Hobs, NM.

*Dissecting Muybridge Part III: Limits of Chronophotography, single channel video*

Noise Video Festival, Film Essay - filmsessay.com, April 3–May 3, 2015, Juried by Charles
Woodman, Andrea Fratti Costa, Rossano Pinelli, Fabrizio Saiu, and Ramon Silles.

*Dissecting Muybridge Part I, Part II, and Part III*

Digital Muddy Expanded Media Festival, Southern Illinois University Carbondale,
February 24–March 1, 2015, Carbondale, IL.

*Dissecting Muybridge Part I: The Moving Image, single channel video*

Dallas Medianale, McKinney Avenue Contemporary Black Box Theater, presented by
the Video Association of Dallas, January 9–11, 2015, Curated by Michael A. Morris,
Dallas, TX.

*Dissecting Muybridge Part I: The Moving Image, single channel video*

2014

Performing Media: Works by Signal Culture Artists in Residence, Everson Museum of

*Dissecting Muybridge, three single channel videos, Multiplying Muybridge, audiovisual performance.*

Annual Faculty Exhibition, Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts Gallery, Indiana
University South Bend, September 29–November 7, 2014, South Bend, IN.

*Dissecting Muybridge, three single channel videos, CHROMA-CURRENT, single channel.*

PERFORMANCES

2014

Performing Media: Works by Signal Culture Artists in Residence, Everson Museum of
Art, September 20, 2014, Syracuse, NY.

*Multiplying Muybridge, Hybrid Analog/Digital audiovisual performance.*

BYOB Grand Rapids, The Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, August 1, 2014, 2014
Grand Rapids, MI.

*Multiplying Muybridge, Hybrid Analog/Digital audiovisual performance.*

PRESS & REVIEWS

2015

Eric Souther, Steve Bisson, Urbanautica, March 12, 2015,
urbanautica.com/post/113424160414/eric-souther

2014

Upstate and Down with Pioneering Media Art, Leila Nadir, Hyperallergic: Sensitive to
Art & its Discontents, October 2014, Brooklyn, NY.

*Works by Signal Culture Artists in Residence, Wall Street International, September
2014.*

LECTURES & TALKS

I gave three renditions of the same talk titled “Performing Media”, at the Kansas City Art Institute in the
spring of 2015. I discussed how these works were made, and how the project developed. I also gave a
presentation on “Analog Synthesis” for a Music Technology course here at Indiana University South
Bend, where I discussed the history of Analog Synthesis, its different philosophies, and methods of use.
The synthesizer used in the presentation was a part of the equipment purchased with the FRG.
GRATITUDE

I would like to thank the Faculty Research Committee for accepting my proposal and giving me the time and support needed to further my creative agenda and my career. I would also like to thank Erika Zynda and Lee Streby for their advice and guidance on the grant writing process, and my chair Michael Lasater for his support and guidance towards tenure.

Thank you,

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