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A Permanent Interactive Public Artwork Transforms with the Tempo of City Transportation

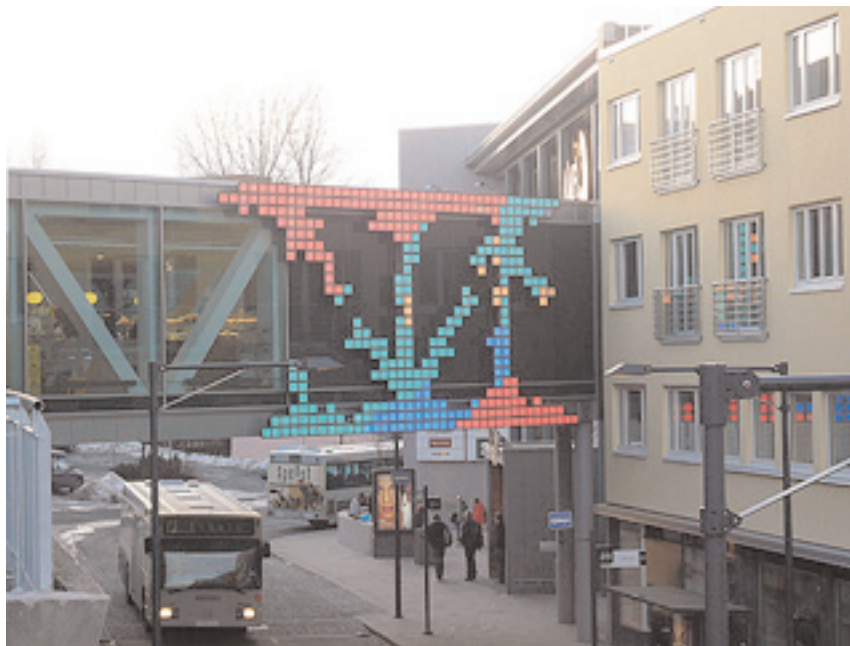
Multimedia Artist Camille Norment presents The Moss Project

Extruding from the dark glass surface of a pedestrian overpass is a fractured mosaic of 350 RGB light tiles whose dynamically changing colors and patterns are determined by the movement of the city busses that pass underneath. Busses' locations along their route are tracked with GPS technology. The locations are abstractly mapped onto the design such that the patterns change with the nearing time of departure of the approaching busses. Enlivening the open-air waiting area of Moss's (NO) main bus terminal, the effect of this permanent interactive artwork is both aesthetic and informative.

The physical structure is a sci-fi like extrusion of the bridge structure itself. The angular modules of glossy black aluminum and acrylic have a growth like a robotic or cybernetic organ, an extension on top of the bridge's own skeletal structure underneath the dark glass.

Reactive Life_ The tile structure was inspired in part by the growth of plants, such as ivy, on architecture and their reactive qualities. Many of these growths respond to their environment by changing colors with the seasons, or growing only on the North side, for example, and as such they offer us readable indications of our immediate environment. In this case, the 'growth' has chosen the shadowed corner of North side of the overpass and responds to its environment by changing colors in anticipation of the approaching busses and furthermore signaling their departure. This reactive artwork offers an impression of time with a similar directness and abstraction, as the color change in a leaf offers an impression of the season. It is a body or digital skin enlivened by the activity in its environment.

Visualization_ As a visualization, the structure is more or less divided in half with some intertwined tiles in the center. The top portion represents (N)Eastbound busses, the bottom represents (S)Westbound busses. Accordingly for example, one can follow an Eastbound bus starting at 20 minutes away, from the tiles in the upper left corner as they progressively change colors heading towards the right and center endpoints of the structure. As other busses approach, they leave their own color trails on top of existing trails. Busses that have arrived at the station and are ready for departure are indicated by periodic bursts of sympathetic color. In this initial visualization pattern, the quantity of tiles represents the time distance between busses; the more tiles of one color, the greater the time distance before the next approaching bus as indicated by the next color. New visualization patterns will appear periodically.



The project was designed and realized in 2007 by Camille Norment who has worked for more than a decade with art and interactive technologies, and initiated as a collaboration between Camille Norment (US) and Ignazio Moresco (IT) of Tempo. Artistic consultant for the project was Knut Åsdam. The industrial design and installation coordination was done by Frost Produkt, Oslo. The lighting technology was designed by Brother, Brother and Sons, Copenhagen. The mounting was handled by Herstad Skiltmontage. The commission of the installation was a collaboration between Bjørnssonkvartalet/AMFI, Moss Kommune and The Norwegian Fund for Public Art.

Camille Norment is Professor of Art at Malmö University. She has widely exhibited internationally at venues including Kulturhuset, Stockholm; Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (solo exhibition); Kunsthalle Bern; The Venice Biennial (2003); Studio Museum of Harlem, NYC; and Santa Monica Museum of Art. Upcoming exhibitions include the 2007 Thessaloniki Biennial, Greece, "Black Light/White Noise" in Houston Texas, and an upcoming solo exhibition at Gallery 400 in Chicago. She is concurrently working on an new permanent interactive public work for the Vøyenenga School in Bærum, Norway.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact Camille Norment at camille@norment.net. Please also visit <http://www.norment.net> for more information.