

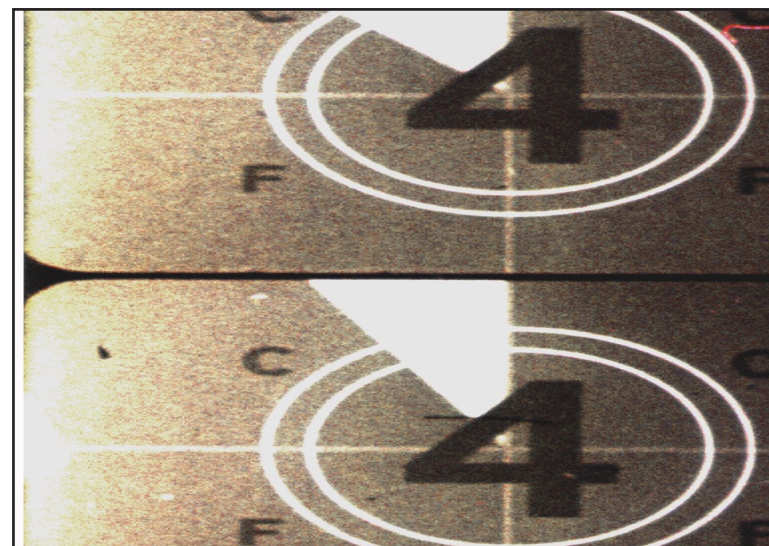
*from: The Next Generation*  
**Combing the MFA shows for up and coming tech artists**  
**Glen Helfand, SF Gate, May 22, 2003**

Art, like technology, is fixated on innovation. Both arenas are about being visionary, groundbreaking and obsessive enough to do something a little nutty (like writing code or dressing up in clown makeup). Every spring, art schools present large, boisterous and boastful exhibitions of their graduate students, at which gallery owners and art lovers mingle with students' parents and cousins in search of the next big thing.

I went to Bay Area MFA exhibitions at the San Francisco Art Institute, UC Berkeley, Mills College and the California College of Arts and Crafts (whose show took place before my journalistic goal was set, so it does not enter as much into this discussion), looking for uses of new plugged-in tools and ideas -- tech artists, the next generation. In these times of financial retrenchment and global uncertainty, high tech doesn't seem quite the saviour it once was. But technological tools are so ingrained in modern lives that, of course, video and computer-linked projects proliferate, though not overwhelmingly.

Do they go where no artist has gone before? Not exactly. One of the wonderful things about such shows is the way the artists are, in a sense, just unfolding their wings and reflecting the zeitgeist of these uncertain times. The art's getting more modest and perhaps more poignant. Over in Oakland, at Mills College, where the MFA show runs through May 25, I began to notice a thread of artists making their tech by hand.

...In her video triptychs, Nomi Talisman creates compositions with three concurrent streams of vintage Super 8 and 16mm film with really fabulous original sound scores. Using over-the-counter laptop technology, Talisman created some truly mesmerizing, sometimes sexy deconstructions of standard cinematic mise-en-scène from music and found and personal footage. The practice is clearly indebted to Christian Marclay's fabulous "Video Quartet," seen at SFMO-MA last summer (and on view in a retrospective exhibition at Los Angeles' Hammer Museum starting at the end of this month), yet Talisman does manage to assert an individuated style into this kind of practice.



Images:  
Video still from *Everything I knew about America I learned from the Movies*  
Nomi Talisman 2003

