THE SMITHSONIAN INTERVIEW PROJECT: QUESTIONS ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN THE CARE OF TIME-BASED AND DIGITAL ART

Time-Based Media and Digital Art includes art works with technology-based components that present specific challenges for conservation, documentation, installation, and preservation of time-based media art.

THE QUESTION

What are the prospects for effective stewardship of time-based media artworks over time? In 2013, interviewers from the Smithsonian’s TBMA Working Group and the Office of Policy and Analysis posed this question to over two dozen experts in the creation, curation, installation, conservation, and preservation of time-based media art.

ONLINE: SI.EDU/TBMA

INTERVIEWS WITH:

Agathe Jarczyk
Arnold Rots
Ben Fino-Radin
Beryl Graham
Caitlin Jones
Christiane Paul
Christine Frohnert
Cory Arcangel
Gaby Wijers
Glenn Wharton
James Snyder
Jana Grazley
Jason Salvon
Jeff Rothenberg
Joanna Phillips
Jon Ippolito
Kara van Malssen
Kate Lewis
Koven Smith
Lincoln Schatz
Mark Hellar
Mark Tribe
Mona Jimenez
Paul Messier
Pip Laurenson
Richard Rhinehart
Sarah Cook
Scott Owens
&
Steven Dye

RESULTS:

TEN INSIGHTS

1/Preservation Is Possible
2/Meet Each Work on Its Own Terms
3/Formal Standards Are Not the Answer
4/Promote Interdisciplinary Collaboration
5/Cross-Train Experts
6/Develop Institutional Knowledge
7/Build on Foundations from Other Fields
8/Embrace New Documentation Practices
9/When Possible, Work with the Artist
10/Embrace Uncertainty and Take Action

We are trying to come up with preservation systems—portfolios of practices—to do the most good for the most objects…and then be intelligent and flexible enough to know when those guidelines are irrelevant and need to be reworked. - PAUL MESSIER

Smithsonian Time-Based & Digital Art Working Group