

Fast Facts

Tony Oursler artwork at The Seattle Public Library's Central Library



The Seattle Public Library

www.spl.org

1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

A series of video sculptures in the heart of the new Central Library makes up the artwork created by New York-based Tony Oursler. The sculptures are a contemplation on the transmission of information.

The inspiration for "Braincast" is the individual library visitor in the act of seeking knowledge. The artwork is designed to reflect the tradition of the public library and its expanding role as transmitter of myriad information forms: spoken, printed, recorded and digital. Each of us has a unique way of processing information and exchanging knowledge, yet the communal aspect of the public library implies a complicated pattern of interconnection among individuals as information is shared.

The sculptures reflect this chain of communication. Located within the walls of the escalator connecting Levels 5 and 3, a group of video sculptures will be revealed through a hole that appears to be broken through the plaster and patched over with a plate of glass.

Inside the wall, a tableaux of faces and their features will be projected among the wiring, studs and pipes and onto white forms that act as three-dimensional screens. These images are computer-animated, shuffled and morphed as they are streamed through the walls. Images of heads, eyes, mouths and ears are linked in a chain-like structure, inspired by data packet transmissions of the Internet.

The universal yet unique quality of the images is highlighted in detailed video close-ups. Reflections of texts and images are seen in the macro video images of the eyes. Low volume and whispered poetic texts come



from the mouths. The kinetic flow of the installation will mirror and contrast the natural motion of library visitors as they descend and ascend the escalator.

Visitors moving past the artwork have 15 seconds to view the display. Many will likely find themselves repeatedly traveling past the artwork to view its intricate details and contemplate its meanings.

Oursler's solo exhibitions have toured throughout the United States and Europe. He has developed an interactive CD-ROM video program and his temporary public project, "The Influence Machine," was displayed at Madison Square Park in New York and in Soho Square in London in 2000.

Learn more about Oursler, and see a video clip of "Braincast," at www.tonyoursler.com.