Trapped in the Clouds Pondering the Night

March 15, 2018
3 minutes, 8 seconds

Speakers: Robert Blatt, Jon Paden

Transcribed by: Sarah Fuchs

[IDEAS Performance Series](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb9526654q)
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Time	Transcription

00:03   [IDEAS Initiative for Digital Exploration of Arts + Sciences]

00:07   [Trapped in the Clouds
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00:25   ["The image is akin to a reflection pond. Above this pond, visitors have the ability to instrument themselves with electronically modified fishing poles installed at the periphery of the space."
- Jon Paden]

00:48   Robert Blatt: My background is in music composition; however, I tend to work in more of an interdisciplinary practice.

00:54   Jon Paden: Some of my early work when I first got into doing a lot of stuff with the little bits of coding, I did stuff with basic computer vision libraries and I had just wanted to make my mass activated and interactive people. So in a sense and turned them into little robots; I put them on pan-tilt servos and I just had them track people's faces and interact with you as you watched. And I got really, really interested in the notion of false positives in computer vision and how it correlates to Pareidolia and I know there's lots and lots of examples of why computers guesses why that is a face and that was kind of the– I made a whole series called *Head in the Clouds*. And I— that was kind of like the start of this exquisite, unintentional, exquisite course.

02:03   Jon Paden: A large inspiration - this is about, kind of, chaos theory. And so really it's about turbulence. And turbulence– you can't have clouds without turbulence. In that– whatever we look at is this kind of turbulent noise. So everything here is looking at turbulence and noise under that kind of veil of chaos.

02:20   Robert Blatt: The element of noise that's within that can sort of kind of excite the imagination because there's sort of this choppy signal, I guess. And so it can sort of excite ideas or thoughts or visual and audible hallucinations that might not be present.

02:40   Jon Paden: So these are based on point cloud images. Because we're taking those point clouds from our mass of images, it creates these patterns and the wonderful thing is that they're so abstracted that sometimes it's really hard for even us to tell. So instead of using it as a tool for accuracy and doing like modelling of elevation, we're just looking at the pure aesthetics of how to offer you something to imagine into.