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GERALD GANGLBAUER ARTS AND LITERATURE • PO BOX 522 • STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 AUSTRALIA
PHONE (+61 2) 9280 2120 • MOBILE 0411 156 309 • FAX (+61 2) 9280 2130 • EMAIL GERALD@GANGART.COM

Media Release



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GANGART AWARDS 2003

2. Intercultural competition for the arts on the Net.

■ *“The Net is constantly changing ... in its early days we surfed the web and killed countless hours, nowadays we use it daily to communicate, do our banking, research etc and visit selected sites for leisure only. These awards point to some worthwhile pages in the wide intercultural field of the arts.”*

Gerald Ganglbauer

The annual Gangart Awards for bilingual or multilingual/ multicultural arts & culture sites on the Net were established by Austrian Australian Gerald Ganglbauer and awarded for the first time in 2001/2002.

The idea is still to promote intercultural arts on the Net to help making Marshall McLuhan's "global village" a peaceful place. An idea growing slowly but steadily, with twice the entries of the first year, with a larger panel of experts from Europe and Australia, where everyone tended to select sites which exploit the medium to good effect, to carry out some kind of project or community (cross-)cultural development with the visitor.

I'm now finding that having taken part in Gangart judging has made me all the more vigilant as a general websurfer as well as Ethnic News Digest Coordinator at the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council here in Melbourne, Australia. Having worked as a web developer – and still involved in web projects as well as multicultural multimedia – this is a new perspective that I value.

Thank you, Gerald and Gangart! (Esther Anatolitis)

And the winners of the second annual Gangart Awards are ...



Gold

<http://www.bzzzpeek.com>

bzzzpeek is presenting a collection of 'onomatopoeia' from around the world using sound recordings from native speakers imitating the sounds of mainly animals and vehicles. this project focuses on the pronunciation and comparison of these sounds by presenting them side by side as each language expresses them differently. bzzzpeek.com is an interactive experience inviting everybody to contribute.

I like how it brings the world together through the simplicity and naivety of a child by capturing their interpretation of how different animals sound in their own language. It shows that although people may speak different languages there are common links between us all. The graphics are simple and easy to interpret and the use of flags to show the different countries is a good solution to the possible translation barrier. (Heather Noakes)

bzzzpeek disguises an unfolding of cultural difference questions as simple frivolity, and as such it works really well.

(Esther Anatolitis)

YES! (Sylvia Petter)

Silver

<http://www.babel.ca/multiscreen/quebec/>

'protesters, police, politicians' is a study of the Summit of the Americas and accompanying anti-globalisation protests that took place in Québec in April 2001. The dynamic 'camera' windows represent the three opposed groups (manifestants, police, politiciens), as observed by both the participants of the events and the omnipresent media, who made these the most photographed, filmed and discussed protests since the initial anti-WTO (World Trade Organization) actions in Seattle 1999. Behind the cameras, words are fractured and obscured, just as the arguments from all sides in Québec City became lost in media overkill, reduced to meaningless soundbites and slogans.

Bronze

<http://www.kaon.org>


.kaon is a non profit-organization. kaon's goal is to promote electroacoustic / experimental / concrete / environmental / electronic musics through the website, release of records and the organization of concerts, exhibitions, events... .kaon was founded in June 1996 in Limoges (France).

Special Mention

These sites deserve a special mention: <http://www.brukenthalmuseum.ro> (good to see entries coming from Eastern Europe), <http://www.cristinacastello.com> (journalism without mask, revelations and poetry from the City of Buenos Aires), <http://www.boat-people.org> (great use of medium, but not multilingual), <http://mothermillennia.org> (has the potential to be a lot more).

I nominate <http://www.wog.com.au> for the shortlist but declare at the outset that I am one of the editors.

It is however an excellent example of a space for cultural exchange within the peculiarly Australian context. Its contributors use language and languages in a variety of ways and it's genuinely multicultural and pluralistic. (Esther Anatolitis)

 Congratulations. We're again looking forward to next year's Gangart Awards and invite you to take part in the search for the best intercultural sites. Thanks to Esther Anatolitis, Elisabeth Birkhan, Sue Gill, Heather Noakes and Sylvia Petter for judging – and best wishes and many thanks to all the artists and creators for participating.

Gerald Ganglbauer

<http://www.gangart.com/awards/>