

**Abstract for Panel Presentation at Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
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Panel: Where AR we: experimenting with Augmented and Mixed Reality

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Moderators: Aviva Dove-Viebahn, Molly Youngblood

***Sculpting the Spectator:  
Towards the Liberation of Image in VR, AR, and MR Environments***

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*We know that the human has never seen outside himself.*  
Gene Youngblood

This presentation addresses the trajectory of the spectator's perception from a traditional cinematic image to *frameless* and *screenless* VR, AR, and MR environments. I begin my ruminations with expanded cinema as mixed reality cinema and a bridge between conventional cinema and virtual reality cinema.

Taking inspiration from Hansen's approaches on bodily relationship between image and spectator, Merleau-Ponty's phenomenological angles on image and observer, and Jeffrey Shaw's expanded cinema projects, I examine the embodiment of the spectator *within* image by assimilating the spectator in physical and computational re-locations, as opposed to a more "passive" relationship *with* the image. In my presentation I propose to conceive of this interaction *within* image as an invisible organic interface, which allows the viewer to externalize his or her internal image.

By following Hansen's, Youngblood's, and Weibel's approaches, I propose a futuristic approach to virtual, augmented, and mixed environments to

externalize the spectator's consciousness as the new reality of 'self', arriving at that we might call a *new image*.

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