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ART 75

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10 February 2020

### Three Contemporary Video Artists

The three contemporary artists I will briefly write about are: Cory Arcangel, Yang Fudong, and Mike Dahlquist.

To begin, Cory Arcangel is a digital media artist based in New York and is most known for his video game modification pieces. One of these pieces include “Super Mario Clouds” (2002) where the NES game Super Mario Bros is modified to only have a blue background with clouds moving across the screen. I like how he alters popular or commonly seen items quite subtly, yet the feel of the final piece compared to the original object is completely different. For instance, Super Mario Bros is most known for its gameplay, but Arcangel alters the game to focus on the background of the game.

The next artist is Yang Fudong, a contemporary artist using film, photography, and video installations to explore past and present social issues. One of his most popular and recent pieces is “The Fifth Night” (2010), a black and white film based in historical Shanghai, China. This film was set up as a seven screen installation where each screen was a different perspective of the same scene in Shanghai. Yang explains how the seven perspectives and the actors’ unpredictable expressions make the viewer feel as if he/she was in the film him/herself. In this piece, I enjoyed how immersive the piece felt; like a precursor to virtual reality.

In addition to Arcangel and Yang, another digital artist is Mike Dahlquist. Dahlquist is known for his SFX work combining internet culture and absurdist humor. One of his popular pieces is called “dog\_meme.avi” (2016) where various dogs --particularly Gabe the dog-- bark and howl to the Running Man Challenge song “My Boo” all topped off with various visual effects such as color correction and video overlays. Although there was no real story or commentary other than referencing the Running Man Challenge, the video was fun to watch and felt reminiscent of short viral videos from the early internet.