

SUBMIT YOUR CELLPHONE IMAGES TO **CELL TANGO**

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College

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Art.

A PROJECT BY GEORGE LEGRADY AND ANGUS FORBES

send pix to: pix@celltango.org with tags in the subject/heading line

Above and front: George Legrady and Angus Forbes, *Cell
Tango Animations (2008)*, *Cell_Burst*, and *Cell_Clusters*,
Two projection interactive installation, dimensions vari-
able. Image courtesy of the artist.

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What is *Cell Tango*? It is an interactive installation that features a cinematic large-scale projection consisting of a collection of cell phone images contributed by the public throughout the duration of the exhibition.

The public is invited to send photos taken on their cell phones, as well as tags that describe the images. These images are organized by a database which uses the tags to search and retrieve other associative pictures from the online Flickr photo sharing website.

The gallery installation consists of 4 animations that group and present the images in different ways:

“**Cell_Bin**” – The most recent images in the database are featured on the screen using an algorithm that selectively places large images randomly and then systematically fills in blank spaces with smaller images until most of the empty screen space is filled.

“**Cell_Clusters**” – This grouping places the most recent images on the screen with a yellow frame, surrounded by randomly selected images from Flickr that share common tags.

“**Cell_Burst**” – The most recent contributions burst open like fireworks, first accompanied by their tags, and then with found Flickr images.

“**Cell_Finale**” – A selection of 15 of the most recent images and 15 random images selected from the database of all images are repeatedly thrown on the screen like the finale of a fireworks display.

The exploration of how we classify images is an important aspect of the artwork—the contrast between what they visually convey and the language by which we describe them. The project is also an exploration of the play of narrative between sets, in this case of a known system (the public contribution) and an open system (found associated images retrieved through common tags).

George Legrady
and Angus Forbes

SUBMTTING YOUR IMAGES:

Participants should send their cell phone images to pix@celltango.org, along with two to four text tags separated by spaces or commas in the email title/subject line that describe each photo’s visual information.

EXHIBITION HISTORY:

The installation *Cell Tango* premiered at the International Society of Electronic Arts (ISEA 2006) annual conference exhibition in San Jose, California in June 2006 under the title *Global Collaborative Visual Mapping Archive*. It was included in the *George Legrady*, solo exhibition at the Pari Nadimi Gallery, Toronto (2006); featured in the exhibition *Speculative Data and the Creative Imaginary* curated by Pamela Jennings, National Academy of Sciences Rotunda Gallery, Washington, DC, (2007); *Cell Tango*, curated by Sarah Smarch, Ford Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, (2008-2009); *Scalable Relations*, curated by Christiane Paul, Beall Center for Art & Technology, UC Irvine (2009), *Cell Tango*, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, curated by Jim Olson, Wellesley College, Wellesley (2009).

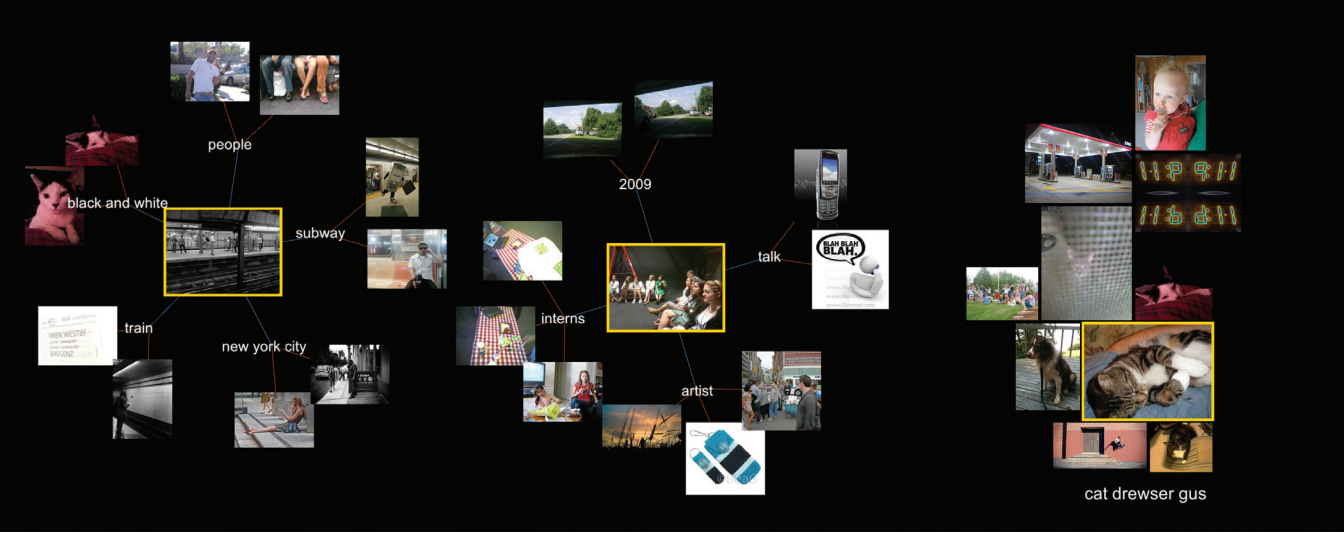
RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION SPONSORS:

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WEB BIBLIOGRAPHY:

<http://www.mat.ucsb.edu/~g.legrady/glWeb/Projects/ctango/cell.html>
<http://www.cielvariable.ca/archive/80/80legrady.html>
http://bhjournal.com/issues/Vol6_2/george_legrady.php
http://ucdarnet.org/scalablerelations/artist_legrady.php
http://www.wellesley.edu/DavisMuseum/exhibitions/exhibitions_celltango.html

For further information visit:
www.georgelegrady.com



George Legrady and Angus Forbes, *Cell Tango Animations* (2008), *Cell_Burst*, and *Cell_Clusters*. Two projection interactive installation, dimensions variable. Image courtesy of the artist.

ARTISTS’ BIOGRAPHIES:

George Legrady, Professor of Digital Media Arts at the University of California Santa Barbara’s Media Arts & Technology graduate program, is director of the Experimental Visualization Lab. He is one of the first generation of artists to explore the potential of computer processing for narrative based installations. His contribution to the digital media field since the early 1990s has been in fusing a conceptual approach to cultural content and data processing as a means of creating new forms of aesthetic representations and cultural narrative experiences.

Angus Forbes is a PhD student in the Media Arts & Technology program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research areas include information visualization, interface design, and computational linguistics. He has collaborated with George Legrady on a number of data visualization projects including *Cell Tango* (2006-2008) and *Data Flow* (2008). In 2006 he created the interface to the National Geospatial Digital Archive, a preservation initiative funded by the Library of Congress. He founded Synaesthetic Software, Inc. in 2002

to develop music education software. Angus is also the drummer for Heat Death, a Gamelan-influenced heavy metal/noise duo.