

# reflections



Homepage graphic for the *Interface Ecology Web* — <http://www.cat.nyu.edu/ecology> — where I am developing the theory and practice of interface ecology as one.

Collage by Cathy Lynn Gasser.

## *Interface Ecology* *Andruid Kerne*

An interface functions as

- a means of contact;
- a border zone;
- a layer hosting exchange;
- a nexus where resources — such as information — and power are circulated and transformed;
- a channel through which interactors communicate; or
- a conduit for message passing.

We form conceptual and practical interfaces in layers, to make diverse connections. The process is simultaneously subjective and shareable. An interface ecology is the open set of relationships which situate an interface. In a balanced ecology, scientific methods of deduction and induction, engineering methods of seat-of-the-pants problem solving, and artistic methods of personal expression commingle as equals.

How can we encourage the traversal of borders? How can we enrich the experience of exchange? A good *modus operandi* is to be open to contributions from any discipline or culture. The process of interrelating disciplines becomes more essential than any one. Jump out of the observer's role. Act deliberately as a participant. Build your own interface ecology. I develop interface ecology in order to connect the diverse worlds I inhabit, and disciplines I practice.