apexart: NYC

Coding the Body

Organized by: **Leah Buechley**
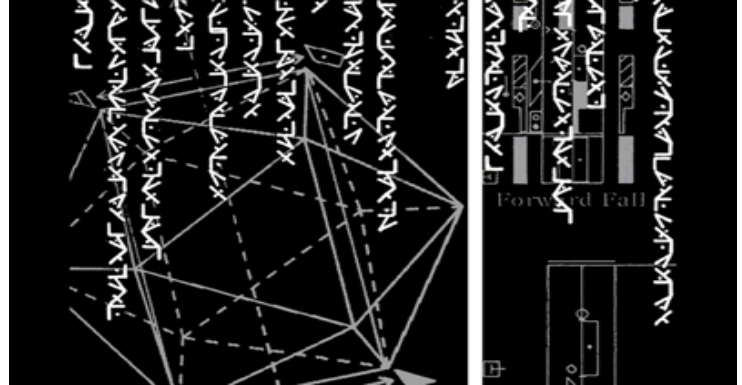
On view: **March 20 - May 10, 2014**

Opening Reception:
Wednesday, March 19: 6-8 pm

Dr. Sarah Fdili Alaoui, Dr. Thecla Schiphorst, Karen Bradley, and Nathan Evans, *Decoding*, 2014 (video still)

Featuring work by:

Francis Bitonti	Cait and Casey Reas
Kelly Dobson	The Laban Institute of
Ben Fry	Movement Studies
Yves Gellie	Diane Willow
Eunsuk Hur	Amit Zoran
Nervous System	

Saturdays at 4pm:
An accompanying performance series organized by Regina Miranda will feature:
Claire Porter, Frederick Curry, Mariangela Lopez, Patricia Niedermeier, and others

Our bodies and our lives are defined by codes. Smart phone apps tell us where we are, genetic codes map our past and future, and religious codes mandate what we can put in and on our bodies. Exoskeletons running military software promise to turn us into real-life iron men, fashion designer-coders write programs that automatically generate 3D printed clothing, and roboticists work tirelessly to build human replicas.

Codes and machines are voraciously claiming more and more of our time, our attention, and our physical selves. With each new year we spend more time interacting with computers and less time interacting with people and our natural environment. Abstract mathematical frameworks are increasingly portrayed as the only valid way to make sense of the world. Humanist approaches wield less and less influence. Many of us occupy this landscape with fascination, enchantment, and unease.

Coding the Body interrogates the relationships between humans and code. It explores how code is being used to understand, control, decorate, and replicate us. The exhibition celebrates the beauty of code and its manifestations while casting a wary eye on its ever expanding power.

For more information please contact Julia Knight at julia.knight@apexart.org or visit apexart.org/exhibitions/buechley.php

Leah Buechley is a designer, engineer, artist, and educator whose work explores intersections and juxtapositions—of "high" and "low" technologies, new and ancient materials, and masculine and feminine making traditions. She also develops tools that help people build their own technologies, among them the LilyPad Arduino kit. She recently left her position as an Associate Professor at the MIT Media Lab to start a design firm. While at MIT she founded and directed the High-Low Tech research group. Her work has been exhibited internationally in venues including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Ars Electronica Festival, and the Exploratorium, and has been featured in publications including the New York Times, Boston Globe, Popular Science, and Wired. Leah received a PhD in computer science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a BA in physics from Skidmore College. At both institutions she also studied dance, theater, fine art, and design.

This exhibition is supported in part by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation.

apexart's exhibitions and public programs are supported in part by the Affirmation Arts Fund, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Nervous System photo by Jessica Weiser

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