

# Digital Art Exhibition at UC Santa Barbara

## Artists Marcos Novak and Ruth West featured at UCSB venue

*Scalable Relations* is a UC-wide series of exhibitions that explore digital media's capability of representing vast amounts of data in constantly evolving relations. Organized by Christiane Paul, Adjunct Curator of New Media Arts at the Whitney Museum of American Art, *Scalable Relations* features media artworks by the faculty of the distinguished UC Digital Arts Research Network (DARnet).

The projects in *Scalable Relations* illustrate the complexities and shifting contexts of today's information society. A distinctive feature of the digital medium is its capacity to establish relations between large quantities of data through filtering and processing according to different criteria. These constantly evolving "scalable relations" affect both the production of meaning and a traditional understanding of aesthetics. These relations become subject to computational logic—the instructions given by algorithms—and a constant reconfiguration of contexts. Indeed, the format of the exhibition itself, distributed across four UC campuses—Santa Barbara, Irvine, Los Angeles, and San Diego—mirrors the relational theme of the exhibition and the inherent connectivity of the digital medium.

At UC Santa Barbara, *Scalable Relations* features Marcos Novak's *Turbulent Topologies* and Ruth West's *Atlas in Silico*. Addressing complex behaviors and transmodalities, the works investigate the geometries of the invisible connections in our lives and our environment and the multi-scale, multi-modal experience of revealing internal structures within genomics data. Together, the works in the networked exhibition provide a sketch of the multiple forms and themes existing within the field of new media art and illustrate the relational qualities of the digital medium.

### UC Santa Barbara Venue

Opening reception: February 12, 2009. 5-8pm  
Exhibition remains on view through March 13, 2009  
Elings Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
transLAB 2615, Experimental Visualization Lab 2611  
Paid parking available in Lot 10

### Related Exhibition Venues

BEALL Center for Art + Technology, UC Irvine: January 9 - March 14, 2009. <http://beallcenter.uci.edu/>  
California NanoSystems Institute CN(S)I, UCLA: January 14 - March 20, 2009. <http://artsci.ucla.edu/?q=node/253>  
gallery@CallIT2, UCSD: January 23 - March 15

The works featured at the BEALL Center explore patterns, complexity, and generative algorithmic process with regard to nature, organic processes, and urban development, as well as representations of online communication and sharing. gallery@CallIT2 exhibits three pieces that use the framework of computer gaming for exploring social and belief systems and expand the usually confined simulated world of a game to the "real world." Taking various forms, ranging from sound installation to new media documentary, the works at the CN(S)I examine issues surrounding science, ethics, public health and social conditions the projects in this category deal with the social and political implications of science or the impact of poverty, alienation, and addiction.

### Participating Artists

Sheldon Brown  
Beatriz da Costa

Sharon Daniel  
Ricardo Dominguez / particle group  
Antoinette LaFarge and Robert Allen  
George Legrady and Angus Forbes  
Rebeca Mendez  
Robert Nideffer  
Greg Niemeyer  
Marcos Novak  
C.E.B. Reas  
Warren Sack  
Ruth West