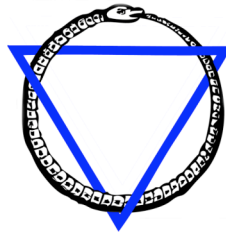


Curator Statement



OUROBOROS
The History of the Universe

a 3D video environment

As the curator of this exhibition I want to thank the Ise Cultural Foundation and especially Tomi Ise, Yuko Suzuki, and Mayumi Sarai for their tremendous support in all phases of this project.

As a medical scientist and contemporary art curator, I've worked in the contested overlapping areas of art and science. Sometimes when artists work together with scientists, the art becomes merely illustrative of the science and/or the scientist is disdainful of the seriousness of the artist. Here, in this true collaboration entitled *Ouroboros*, the artists Blake Shaw, Bruno Levy (known collectively as Sweatshoppe) and Ali Hossaini, have created an immersive 3D installation that really brings together the elements of wonderment, experimentation, and problem solving that make up the exciting common grounds shared by art and science.

It's fitting that the logo for the show is the Ouroboros intertwined with an equilateral triangle, acknowledging the full contributions of each artist to this project. The triangle, among other interpretations, invokes sacred geometries and elemental structures within nature, while the snake with its tail in its mouth is, among other interpretations, the symbol of the cyclic nature of being. The German chemist August Kekule claims to have solved the mystery of the chemical structure of benzene as a ring, rather than a chain, by seeing Ouroboros in a dream, an example of the convergent paths of creative thought and scientific inquiry.

This amazing collaborative work has been described in terms of "visual poetry" and "streams of consciousness" and induces in some viewers what I diagnose as a "semiotic narcosis." I invite you to come, sit, and take some time with this installation and find your own personal connection with these truly marvelous visual and aural experiences.

Namaskar,
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