

Kunsthalle Bremen and Weserburg | Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, present:

## **NORMAN WHITE** **we fix toasters**

Norman White, award winner of the 3rd d.velop digital art award [ddaa] 2008 of the Digital Art Museum [DAM] Berlin

Exhibition: 18th September – 8th November 2009  
Preview: Friday, 18th September 2009, 7 pm

Norman White is one of the pioneers of electronic and interactive art. The retrospective shows his humorous machines – machines, seeming to have a life of their own and confronting the viewer in an often unexpected and surprising way.

His most well known art work is the *Helpless Robot*, that initially kindly asks the viewer for help and then turns out to be of a dictatorial character.

Since the middle of the 1960s the Canadian Norman White (\*1938) develops electronic, since 1976 also digital, machines, which are programmed in such a way that unforeseen forms and reactions are supposed to evolve. Since the 1980s he concentrated on robotics and launched the Sumo-Robot-Challenges in Toronto which take place regularly since the 1980s.

Norman White describes himself humorously as an "expert in doing things in the wrong way"; he is not interested in achieving a completed object, but in processes, astonishing developments, "independent" machines. In his works the smallest robots are winning the challenges, he initiated a noisy sexual act performed by robots or lets a mechanical eye suddenly appear in a painting to gaze at the viewer.

White recycles obsolete machines, like Nam June Paik has done at the same time, and therefore, you can often find objects that he modified several times, until the single components were beyond repair. Norman White prefers to let the audience encounter his artworks in places

where art is not normally expected, outside of museums and galleries. From the 1970s White has consciously not participated at the art business. He became known as a teacher of a generation of important Canadian new media artists.

Anne-Marie Duguet, Exhibition Catalogue "Norman White. we fix toasters", 2009:

*„If science can learn anything from art at all, it should be searching for it in this oeuvre and this artistic attitude.“*

Under the patronage of Klaus Wowereit, Governing Mayor of Berlin, the d.velop digital art award [ddaa] is awarded by the Digital Art Museum [DAM] for the 3rd time. The prize remunerates the lifetime oeuvre of a pioneer in Digital Art. He was handed over at the art fair Art Forum in Berlin in 2008. In addition to the prize money the laureate has an exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bremen accompanied by a catalogue.

Due to construction works at the Kunsthalle Bremen the exhibition will take place at the Weserburg, Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, this year. 14 electronic art works will be shown as well as numerous documentations of other works, performances and actions.