



*The Kitchen Center
for Video · Music · Dance
Performance · Film and Literature*

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Immediate Release

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Liz Phillips: Echo Evolution

September 9-October 2

Press opening (private reception): September 11 [Sat] 5-7 PM

A 3-D interactive human-scale ultra sound & neon installation

Neon by Ken Greenberg/Krypton Neon

Custom-designed software by Michael Wu

Studio engineering by Earl Howard

Electronic circuits by Serge Tcherepnin

Multi-media artist **Liz Phillips** builds a 3-D interactive human-scale sound and light structure that comes alive as members of the audience move through space to create an ever-changing environment of wonder. Interactive computerized circuitry and various sensor systems activate sounds made from processed samples of spinning objects—rings, Tibetan prayer bowls, rubbing metal, a rain-stick, or the rim of a wineglass. In addition, tubes of “Ecstatic neon” illuminate paths, furthering the experience of the tuning and weighted proportions of time and spacé.

Sound engines used for this installation include an IBM computer system, equipped with custom-made programs designed by Michael Wu, software engineer from MIT Media Lab. As it interacts with a Kurzweil K-2000 Variable Architecture Synthesis System, the IBM receives sensor data including infrared, ultrasonic, and capacitance fields, which enables it to locate the audience in the space. Speed of movement, stillness, and distance (closest and furthest point on a line) can then be used to activate, modulate, and build sound and light events in real and accumulated time.

The sound events are accompanied by light structures, which Phillips created using a newly patented process called “Ecstatic neon,” developed by Ken Greenberg. Light is moved within neon tubes in such a way that form can grow, spin and evolve through the excitation of different gases, changing of color and illumination at different levels. The high frequency modulations of these light constructs create light mirages that are not unlike the images created by a television scan, but here they are realized in a 3-D space.

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About the artist...

New York-based artist **Liz Phillips** has been making interactive multi-media installations for the past 30 years, which combine audio and visual art forms with new technologies to create a fascinating interactive experience. Born in New Jersey in 1951, Phillips received a B.A from Bennington College in 1973. In 1981, she co-founded Parabola Arts Foundation, a not-for-profit organization created by five media artists from varied disciplines (music, sculpture, film, video) which provides funding for art-related projects. Phillips has made and exhibited interactive sound and multimedia installations at numerous art museums, alternative spaces, festivals, and public spaces. These include The Whitney Museum of American Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Spoleto Festival USA, the Walker Art Museum, Ars Electronica, Jacob's Pillow, The Kitchen, and Creative Time, among others. Phillips has also collaborated with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and her work was presented by the Cleveland Orchestra, IBM Japan, and the World Financial Center. Her most recent sound installation, *Koi*, premiered in Ijsbreker (Netherlands) in an exhibition of interactive installations with fish and sound.

The Kitchen Gallery is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th and 11th Avenues.) It is open from Tuesday-Saturday, 2-6 PM, and on performance days, one hour before performance and during intermission. Admission is free.