Critical Art Ensemble Timeline
Author(s): Critical Art Ensemble
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Critical Art Ensemble Timeline

Current members: Steve Kurtz, Steve Barnes, Dorian Burr, Hope Kurtz, and Beverly Schlee

1986

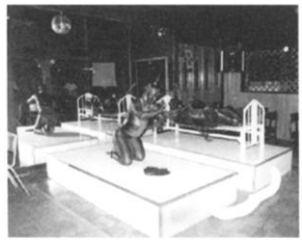
As students, Steve Kurtz and Steve Barnes begin a collaboration to make low-tech videos. They use the signature Critical Art Ensemble to credit all the people who contribute to the productions.

Summer 1987

Critical Art Ensemble transforms into a broad-based artist and activist collective, expanding to include six core members.

1987

CAE begins its collective practice. The first multimedia exhibitions are held at Club NU (a trendy Miami club) and Pappy's Lounge (a small blues bar in downtown Jackson, MS).



1988

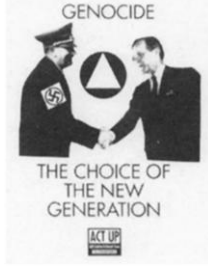
The first events are produced: *Political Art In Florida?* is done in collaboration with Group Material, and *Frontier Production* is done with Thomas Lawson.

1988-98

CAE begins releasing object-oriented artist's books of plagiarist text poetry (six in all).

1989

Cultural Vaccines, a collaboration with Gran Fury, results in a multimedia event in Tallahassee, FL, critiquing U.S. policy on the HIV crisis. The first chapter of ACT UP in Florida is created out of this project.



1990

Peep Show, a collaboration with Prostitutes of New York (PONY), premieres at Window on Gaines, Tallahassee, FL.

1991

Fiesta Critica, a body of work (performance, sound installation, slide show, and a video installation) developed in Indiantown, FL, by CAE and local migrant workers, addresses Floridian agricultural labor relations. With the aid of a local organization and citizens, CAE produces an Easter fiesta as a platform to show the works.

1992

Exit Culture is produced by CAE as a series of works developed for highway culture.

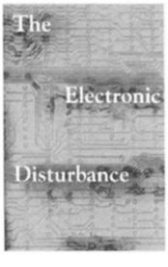
CAE proposes *The Electronic Disturbance* to Autonomedia, a collective of Semiotext(e).

1993

CAE is invited to perform at the Audio/Visual Experimental festival in the Netherlands, the collective's first appearance in Europe.

CAE completes the associational documentary series *Apocalypse and Utopia* (see *The Electronic Disturbance*, chapter 3, for more information).

1994



The Electronic Disturbance is published by Autonomedia.

Construction begins on CAE's web site.

The *Useless Technology* project is performed as a street action and launched online. CAE projects begin to appear in both real and virtual forms.

CAE introduces the concept of electronic civil disobedience at the *Terminal Futures* conference at the ICA in London.

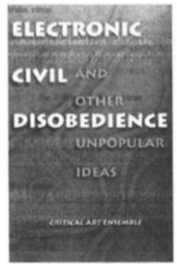
1995

CAE lectures at Ars Electronica and introduces the concept of the data body.

CAE tours Europe performing *Body Count*.

1996

Electronic Civil Disobedience (the companion text to *The Electronic Disturbance*) is published by Autonomedia.



Research begins on the book *Flesh Machine*.

1997

CAE tours *Flesh Frontiers* and *Shareholder's Briefing*.

The Italian translation of *The Electronic Disturbance* is published by Castelvecchi.

CAE goes to *Documenta X* in Kassel, Germany, to begin the process of conceptualizing and editing the book *README: Ascii Culture and the Revenge of Knowledge* at Hybrid Workspace.

CAE begins to tour the performance *Flesh Machine*. It premiers in Vienna at Public Netbase and closes in Helsinki, at Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, in Summer 1998.

The French anthology of CAE's writings, *La Résistance Electronique,* is published by L'Éclat.

1998

Flesh Machine is published by Autonomedia.

CAE's street action occurs in Sheffield, UK, with the performance, *The International Campaign for Free Alcohol and Tobacco for the Unemployed.*

The German translation of *Flesh Machine* is published by Passagen.

The Italian translation of *Electronic Civil Disobedience* is published by Castelvecchi.

1999

The Society for Reproductive Anachronisms premiers in the student cafeteria at Rutgers University.

Work begins on *Cult of the New Eve.*

CAE begins its new book project, entitled *Digital Resistance: Explorations in Tactical Media.*

CAE begins performing *Cult of the New Eve.* It premiers at St. Clara Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

2000

Digital Resistance: Explorations in Tactical Media is published in 2000 by Autonomedia.

The German anthology of CAE's writings on electronic media is published by Passagen.