

For Immediate Release  
November 1996

**PORT: DIGITAL CULTURE ON THE INTERNET  
AN ARTNETWEB EXHIBITION AT MIT**

ARTNETWEB will present an exhibition titled "PORT" about the flux of digital culture in the networked environment of the Internet at the List Visual Arts Center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from January 25 through March 29, 1997. A Web site and mailing list have been set up in order for the greatest number of people to participate in the planning of this exciting event.

Over the past three years ARTNETWEB has been involved with a number of projects intended to exhibit online activity to the public. Events such as CyberSoho, The Space of Information and the CyberFair for Artists were some of the first attempts to invent a form of exhibition that acknowledged the new possibilities on the networked environment of the Internet. In our Soho storefront/gallery we have conducted several experiments bridging the online environment and the physical environment in an exhibition format. ARTNETWEB is using the experience of these events to form the basis of the MIT exhibit and to create a possible model for the future.

Due to the global distribution of possible participants and the experimental nature of most of the work being done it was decided to allow for as much pre-exhibition planning to be done as publicly as possible using the Internet itself as the main method of communication. Even though the physical MIT exhibition site will not open until the end of January the informational Web site and mailing list discussion group are now available:

PORT Web site: <http://artnetweb.com/port/>

PORT Discussion List: [PORT-MIT@home.l-soft.com](mailto:PORT-MIT@home.l-soft.com)

There is now a "Core Participants" group set up to do the preliminary groundwork and we are inviting interested individuals and groups to be "Remote Participants" with the possibility of being participants in the exhibition itself. If you would like to discuss your idea for remote participation in the exhibition, please join our mailing list discussion group. More information may be found on the Web site.

"Remote Participation" in the exhibition means that individuals and groups will be participating using their own computers and software over the Internet, the results of which will be viewed at MIT on a large-screen projection system as well as over the Internet. These will be scheduled time-based events such as MOO/MUD plays, VRML metaworlds, chat interviews and guided Web tours using online technologies such as CU-SeeMe, VRML 2.0, Black Sun, AlphaWorld, Palace, Virtual Places and RealAudio.

Events during specific time slots once a week over the eight-week period of the exhibition must two weeks will be considered "rehearsals" to work out bugs in the technology and content, after which the Internet public will be invited to join in.

Projects must be time-based performative events using the Internet. We will not have the ability to exhibit CD-ROM, video or other non Internet based work. Remote Participants will be selected by their involvement in the Mailing List Discussion Group and by descriptions of their proposed participation. Our primary concern is for creative people to come together as a "node" for the