

## **Holly Longstaff- “Distorted Conversations: On and Offline Explorations of Genomic Art”**

In “Distorted Conversations”, Longstaff is interested in exploring methods of reducing facilitator artist privilege through online discourse. The purpose of this piece is to provide visitors with an opportunity to anonymously share their hopes and concerns about pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) by participating in online conversations contained on a blog website. These conversations are then used in a second offline installation to spark dialogue and debate amongst observers. This project pushes the metaphor of ethical determinism while exposing key concepts such as normalization, genetic determinism, and individual autonomy. Conversations ultimately mimic the actual processes of PGD and every aspect of both the online and offline portions of the piece are controlled by and manipulated through PGD- type technology. Some of the themes explored by participants to date include cost/benefit; assumptions concerning people with disabilities; and ethics and faith.

Longstaff’s recent and upcoming publications include "Artistic Bedfellows". (Forthcoming). Editors: Holly Crawford and Lillian Fellmann. Published by Roman and Littlefield and Longstaff, Holly. (2006). Distorted Conversations: On and Offline Explorations of Genomic Art. Tenth International Conference on Information Visualization (IV'06). IEEE Computer Society. pp. 677-680. Her work has also been included in group shows in Winnipeg, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles.

For more on Longstaff’s work, please visit

<http://rhizome.org/object.php?44503>

<http://genomicart.blogspot.com/>

<http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/IV.2006.44>