



File Type

Curated by Chaz Evans and Lorelei Stewart

GALLERY **400**

June 17 - July 30, 2011

Reception: Friday, June 17, 5-8 pm

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Artists:

Mike Andrews | Jon Cates | Channel Two | Anthony Discenza | Constant Dullaart |
Eric Fleischauer | Patrick Lichty | Ei Jane Janet Lin & Miao Jiaxin | Kristin Lucas |
Todd Mattei | Jesse McLean | Chris Meerdo | Casey Reas | Steve Ruiz | Siebren Versteeg

The specificity of work in electronic media warrants investigations that refine categories past "the digital" or "the internet." *File Type* is an exhibition which analyzes the cultural character of digital file formats such as the .pdf, .tiff, .jpeg etc. These and many other file types contain narratives that give specific bodies to the often invisible entities that construct electronic culture. Formats and file types represent ways that artwork in digital or internet media create particular standards of representation. What is often regarded as the minutiae of computer science have now become the parameters given to cultural agents. Or to put it in different terms, computer science is now a direct player in the construction of cultural identity, intentionally or not.

File Type explores the kinetic relationships that construct a network of electronic exchange. How have file types worked their way into, or in many cases become, our cultural metaphors? What are the politics of implied aesthetics hidden within file formats that are regarded as transparent? What are the effects of expediency in using different formats in communication and exchange? Or perhaps, most importantly, what is the relationship between electronic formats and artistic practices, electronic, or otherwise? Are these adjuncts and extensions of artistic practice necessarily a breakage from non-electronic media or are they possibly fluid and interchangeable?

Gallery 400 is supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the College of Architecture and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago; a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency. The Daryl Gerber Stokols and Jeff Stokols Voices Series Fund provides general support to Gallery 400 programs.

GALLERY 400

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gallery400.aa.uic.edu

Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 12-6

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U.S. Postage Paid
Chicago, Illinois
Permit Number 4860