

**Australian Network for Art & Technology
1997 National Summer School
Proposed Outline**

ANAT 1997 National Summer School in Internet Site Design and High End Web Authoring

ANAT has pioneered intensive skilling programs for artists through its co-ordination of annual national summer schools in computer media since 1989. Working closely with the various host organisations over the years, and in close consultation with highly skilled and critically astute artist tutors, ANAT has created a series of deeply immersive learning environments which have provided the catalyst for profound conceptual shifts and directions in practice for participating artists.

The technologies taught in the summer schools have changed over the years, underscored by the aim to provide artists with subsidised technological skilling of the highest quality and most relevance to contemporary new media practices. There are now a range of entry-level relatively affordable digital production courses available through art schools, TAFEs and commercial courses, and an increasing number of artists who have basic or better competency levels in relevant software applications and who have produced sophisticated new media projects. Many of these artists are turning to the internet as a site for conceptualisation, production and dissemination of new work which uses the realtime multimedia distributed environment and culture of the net as an integral component of webbed artworks.

In response to the above circumstances ANAT is shifting the direction of its national summer school for 1997 to offer artists with some experience in digital media the opportunity to learn high end internet authoring applications and relevant programming languages. The School will be held over three weeks in January 1997 at an appropriately equipped host institution. (Discussions are underway with the University of Tasmania in Hobart and Contemporary Arts Services Tasmania). 24 hour/7 days a week access to the computer facilities will optimise the students' use of all facilities.

The three artist tutors proposed for this school share a strong background in programming, multimedia authoring, conceptual design and cultural critique. The proposed tutors are Linda Dement, Lloyd Sharp and Jason Gee. CVs are enclosed with the application.

Participants will be expected to have some background in digital media and/or sound production. No prior programming or internet skills will be necessary.

The school will include tuition in a range of web authoring applications which students will use to create their own highly interactive internet projects. At this stage it is envisaged that the following units will be presented:

- SHOCKWAVE (and/or JAVA)
- MIDI (and/or CRESCENDO)
- DIRECTOR (advanced LINGO programming language)
- COMMON GATEWAY INTERFACE (CGI) basic programming protocols
- QUICKTIME VR
- NETSCAPE GOLD
- Site management
- System administration
- File loading analysis and comparison
- pay-to-access protocols
- censorship and classification issues
- modes of interactive narrativity
- copyright and ownership issues

The school will also give participants the opportunity to learn additional internet and digital production skills specific to their internet projects.

Forum/ Open Day

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To complement and culturally contextualise the core skills-based program, a satellite event is planned. This event (working title 'Angel Dust//Mirror Cite') will combine a one day forum with an open day of the school. The forum will include presentations by a number of Australia's most innovative media artists and legal specialists and an opportunity for the public and media to view the work-in-progress produced during the school.

The focus of Angel Dust//Mirror Cite will be to lead forum participants through the complex legal and ethical data streams running through the net, untangling legal, aesthetic and political choices which need to be considered by artists working within the net. Two experts on intellectual property, defamation, copyright, hacking, regional jurisdictions and censorship classifications will present the current state of play. Their presentations will be complemented by those of three artists who have worked through some of these issues on their own practice.

Angel Dust//Mirror Cite will be publicised and promoted to both the local and national arts sector, the media and the general public.

Funding will be sought from state cultural funding agencies and relevant training authorities to subsidise both the school itself, the forum and the artists' participation.