

ENTER CHNG

Drew Bolton, Jamie Burkart and Garrett Fuselier
January 8 - 29, 2010
Arts Incubator Cocoon Gallery - 115 West 18th Street

ENTER CHNG (text speak for interchange) is an interactive text messaging experience by Kansas City based artists Drew Bolton, Jamie Burkart and Garrett Fuselier opening Second Friday, January 8 from 6 - 9 at the Arts Incubator's Cocoon Gallery.

Equal parts software application and architectural installation, ENTER CHNG encourages visitors to turn on their cell phones and communicate in real-time through both faces of a digital wall constructed in the gallery. Over the course of the exhibition, messages from participants combine to form a virtual dialog that demonstrates the character of the TXT phenomenon.

ENTER CHNG inverts the social practice of short messaging. The privacy of a silent exchange is made public. The one-to-one becomes many-to-many. The pragmatic, ephemeral and every-day nature of text messaging is suddenly transformed into a physically immersive aesthetic experience in which visitors can speak and misspeak together as a group.

Bolton, Burkart and Fuselier combine their backgrounds in scenic design, computer programming, motion graphics, and experiential production to craft a social information space that explores the pervasiveness of TXT culture and challenges its insularity. "We hope to make new connections for the gallery visitor. Texting can be a very interior experience. We are asking them to reach outside their address books and step beyond the buddy list," says Burkart.

"[Opening night] will be our biggest night with the widest range of communication. We feel that because the gallery is conducive to the open exchange of ideas we are allowing people to write anything and communicate in the most comfortable way possible," says Fuselier.

ENTER CHNG is the collective product of a Bolton, Burkart and Fuselier collaboration produced exclusively for the 2010 Cocoon Gallery exhibition.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Drew Bolton was chief editor of the 2009 Grand Arts Film, SSION's BOY. A 2006 graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute, he lives and works in Kansas City.

Jamie Burkart has exhibited interactive video works with the Bushwick Art Project in New York and the Film Arts Foundation in San Francisco. His recent installation with the Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project addressed the Missouri River in Kansas City as a Social Network. Burkart studied Film and Digital Media at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Garrett Fuselier is a 2008 graduate of Kansas City Art Institute. He designs interactive projection based experiences with T2, a cross-media design firm of Kansas City.