

Barry L. Roshto

Steckbrief (Fact Sheet)



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Who I Am

I was born in Louisiana in the deep south of the USA, but have moved about a lot. I have lived and worked in Bonn, Germany since 1982, which is longer than anywhere else in the world. Although I still have a US passport, I definitely have roots in Europe and often feel like I am stuck in the middle of the Atlantic. I am married to a German and have 2 kids, David (16) and Emily (11).

While still in the states, I earned 2 Bachelor degrees in Music with concentrations in voice, piano, conducting and composition. After moving to Europe I studied musicology at the University in Bonn, received private instruction from the Bulgarian composer Bojidar Dimov in Cologne and received a Masters of Music (with Distinction) in Composing for New Media from the London College of Music and Media (2002).

What I Do

Music

Although my education is classical and I have worked as singer, orchestra musician (horn) and accompanist, I have also jobbed as keyboarder in various bands, but presently do not consider myself a performing musician. (No time to keep my chops up!) I compose about 3 commissioned solo and chamber music pieces and 1 or 2 film music / sound design scores a year.

Media

I have always been interested in the combination of sights and sounds and have worked with electronic music devices since the 80's. I began using Max in the early 90's to make interactive installations. I am fairly proficient with Flash Animation, Max/MSP/Jitter and Cyclops, although there is always more to know. I spend a lot of time on the computer, but I am not good enough to be considered a geek! I manage 1 installation and ca. 5 AV shows (in which I do live video and/or live electronic-surround sound) each year. I began calling myself a "Media Artist" around the turn of the century.

While reading for my Masters degree in London, I became interested in Media Studies and try to keep abreast of developments in popular media culture. Most recent reads: Steven Johnson: *Everything Bad is Good for You* and Henry Jenkins: *Convergence Culture*. "Emergence" theory is a very important part of my artistic thinking and I am constantly struggling with the question of control, or how much a visitor should be able to influence the processes within an installation system.

Education

Since my high school years, I have taught piano lessons. Throughout college and my freelancing career, teaching has been done more out of necessity rather than joy, a lifeline keeping the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on the table. I have a part-time job at the municipal music conservatory in Bonn teaching piano and composition. I also do workshops on music technology and experimental music, and am currently involved in the process of developing a music technology department at the conservatory.

In 2000, I developed "Space Drums", a video controlled media environment to be used as a music education tool. In 2004, I founded the *Sonarium Education Initiative (sei)*, which does Media Education projects for children and young people. Since then, I have organised and carried out 6 *sei* projects and there are presently 2 more in planning.

Although my educational activities have mostly been forced upon me by financial necessity, it would be difficult to imagine an existence without pedagogical responsibilities, and I must also quickly add that teaching has definitely enriched my life.

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What Do I want from e-MobiLArt Project

More Scope

I have had national and international success with my musical compositions and recently with my Flash animations as part of Flag Metamorphosis project, but the projects that I consider to be the most important and consume the most of my energy remain (with a few exceptions) regional in their resonance. I hope that this project can change that!

More Means

As I do not do my work in the context of any institution, I am constantly struggling with material problems. Not enough speed, not enough capacity, just never enough... Although exploring and/or exploiting the limits of older equipment can lead to interesting results.

I have carried around some ideas for a while now, that would require more resources and expertise than are available to me privately:

- Evaluating data from video input in the context of a longer input "history" (data base)
- Building a swarm of AV robots

I hope that this project can provide the means to do something that would be impossible for me to do on my own.

New Collaborations

My installation building partner from the UK, Peter Brown has recently gotten a "real" job; *real* good money and *really* long hours (24/7). Unfortunately, he no longer has time for "art" work. Hopefully there will be persons on the project with whom collaboration will be as fruitful and interesting as with Peter.

Recent Work (highlights)

2006	August	Cuba and USA – Missile Crisis - Flash Animation Part of Flag Metamorphosis , a web based animation project conceived and organized by Swiss video artist Myriam Thyes EXIS Experimental Film + Video Festival, Seoul, South-Korea, Sep. 1-6, 2006. www.ex-is.org Square Eyes / 'State of the Image' media festival, Arnhem, Netherlands, Sep. 7-9, 2006. www.square-eyes.org Paraflows 06 - annual convention for digital arts and cultures, Vienna, Austria, Sep. 9-16, 2006. www.paraflows.at Flag Metamorphoses on the Big Screen! Central stations in Switzerland: Zurich, Basel, Bern, Geneva. Sep. - Oct. 2006. In cooperation with PROGR centre for cultural production, Bern. www.progr.ch Canarias Mediafest, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Oct. 2006. www.grancanariacultura.com Blindemuur, Chassé Theater + Cinema, Breda, Netherlands, January - February 2007. www.cinemapunaise.nl Traverse Video, Toulouse, France, March 2007. www.traverse-video.org The Digital Hub, Dublin, Ireland: Projected Weekends, January 2007. www.thedigitalhub.com DUTA Biennale des arts visuels, Duala, Cameroon, March 2007. www.biennaleduta.org FLEFF Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, Ithaca, NY, USA, March - April 2007. www.ithaca.edu/fleff Victory Plaza, Victory Media Network, Dallas, Texas, USA, March - April 2007. www.victorymedianetwork.com Tactics of Resistance, Exhibition Centre Constantin Brancusi, Chisinau, Moldova, June 2007. www.oberliht.org.md Centro Comercial El Paseo, Tehuacan, Puebla, Mexico, July 2007. www.artencontrarte.com.mx One Minute Film & Videofestival, Kunstraum Aarau, Aarau, Switzerland, August 2007. www.oneminute.ch Pixilerations v.4, FirstWorksProv, Providence (RI), USA, Sep. 2007. www.pixilerations.org URBAN SCREENS conference + public projects, Manchester, UK, Oct. 11-14, 2007. www.manchesterurbanscreens.org.uk Flip Animation Festival, Wolverhampton, UK, Nov. 1-3, 2007. www.flipfestival.co.uk Videomedeja intl. video festival, Museum of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia, Dec. 14-16, 2007. www.videomedeja.org Mediterranean Environmental Award, Almeria, Spain, January 15-18, 2008. www.medaward.org 17 Days Video Series, USA (http://17days.wordpress.com): 1) Richmond Center for Visual Arts, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA, Jan. 17, 2008. 2) Center for the Arts, University at Buffalo (NY), USA, March 26, 2008. Our Friends Are Electric, Federation Square, Melbourne, Australia, February 7-21, 2008. www.urbanscreens.org AZYL festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, Feb. 28 - March 2, 2008. www.azyl.sk FILE retrospective, Santander Cultural Center, Porto Alegre, Brazil, Feb. 19 - April 20, 2008. www.file.org.br Nothing to Declare, Triennial for Contemporary Art Oberschwaben / Lake Constance; exhibitions
2006	Dec	Tigernacht (Tiger Night) – by Eva Wal - Audio-Visual performance for live video projection, seamstress sewing an old and well-worn sari, recitation and improvised music - Premiered new year's eve at the artclub, Cologne Text, performance – Eva Wal / Recitation, music – Angelica Schubert / Video, Jitter programming – B. L. Roshto

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2007	June	<p>Gray Code Suite – for piano solo Premiered at the Theatre im Ballsaal, Bonn by Ursel Quint</p> <p>Cockroaches – for harpsichord solo Premiered at the University Club, Bonn by Paul Ray Klecka</p>
	Oct	<p>Tigernacht (Tiger Night) – by Eva Wal 7th Cologne Theatre Night – Kunstwerk, Cologne-Deutz</p> <p>converging streams - Computer Installation, Max/MSP/Jitter, 7.1 Surround Sound Munsterplatz, Bonn This project was presented as part of the of the North Rhine-Westphalia "Ab in die Mitte" programme, a series of cultural events aimed at drawing visitors into the cities during fall holidays. <i>Converging streams</i> was meant to provide a glimpse of what home entertainment could be like in the future. The lines between production and consumption will become increasingly obscure.</p> <p>Converging streams analyzed colour content in certain zones of an input video, which was used as control info to manipulate live video images, video clips, audio samples and panorama.</p> <p>This was a cooperation project with Peter Brown. I was responsible for the overall design and the Max/MSP/Jitter programming.</p> <p>Anya & Saul – by Eva Wal – A film opera Municipal Theatre Bonn An Audio-Visual presentation for 2 video film projections moving across a semi-circular screen, narration and a 7.1 music and sound design composition</p> <p>Story, concept, film – Eva Wal / Composition, sound design, 7.1 programming - B. L. Roshto</p>
2008	Jan	<p>Gruvs and Atmos – for 2 pianos Premiered at the Mehlem'shes Haus, Bonn by Ursel Quint and Christian Kraemer</p>
2008	April	<p>Chien ne va plus (Hund geht nicht mehr) – short film Homage to "Un chien andalou" by Luis Buñuel made in cooperation with cameraman and cinematographer Kai von Westerman</p> <p>Ground Rounds - oder die Kunst der unfügsamen Fuge Audio-Visual performance for 2 video projections, turntable, 7.1 Surround Sound and music improvisation / Premiered at the Alt St.-Martin Chapel, Muffendorf with Dusica Cajlan-Wissel (piano & harmonium), David Roshto (VJ) and B.L.Roshto (concept, animation, live video manipulation, electronics, etc.)</p>
<p>Works in Progress (<i>what I am doing at the moment</i>)</p>		<p>Der Pole,der auch Deutscher war (The Pole who was also a German) An experimental film by Kai von Westerman about the Polish littérateur, musician, radio drama author and sound investigator Witold Hulewicz I am to do the music (based largely on Beethoven's piano works that Hulewicz played on every pub piano he encountered in rural Poland between that wars) and 5.1 sound design – hopefully by the end of July</p> <p>Commission – Markus Krebel (Pianist) and the "Spectrum Duo" (Andreas van Zoelen - Bass Saxophone & Susanne van Zoelen-Lucker - English Horn) Premier in September</p> <p>Commission – Ursel Quint (Pianist) Premier in January 2009, Schwartzsche Villa in Berlin</p>