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**Montalvo Arts Center and San Jose State University's CADRE Laboratory for New Media Team Up for FUSE – a Residency Research Initiative New to Silicon Valley**

Red76, Mongrel and bulbo are first artist groups to participate in FUSE, with projects culminating in June

**SARATOGA and SAN JOSE, Calif.**, - Montalvo Arts Center and [CADRE Laboratory for New Media](#) at San Jose State University have launched the inaugural projects for FUSE: CADRE/Montalvo Artist Residency Research Initiative, an unprecedented effort that will bring internationally renowned artists to Silicon Valley to collaborate with world leaders in science and technology—an opportunity impossible to offer elsewhere in the world. Artists participating in FUSE use a wide range of media from computers to social networks to develop projects examining the most pertinent issues of our time including globalization, sustainability, censorship, human rights and social responsibility.

The first artists chosen to participate in FUSE are:

- [Red76](#), a Portland-based group whose mission is to create an atmosphere wherein the public may become highly aware of their immediate surroundings and their day to day activities;
- [Mongrel](#), an internationally recognized artists group specializing in digital media; and
- [bulbo](#), a Tijuana-based collective that explores the possibilities of exchange and collaboration while using broadcast media with constructive aims.

“The artists we’ve chosen for FUSE are all unique, and both Montalvo and CADRE are proud to bring them to the community,” said Joel Slayton, director of CADRE. “Nowhere else will an artist have this sort of opportunity, nor students, nor corporate sponsors and therefore the residency is an incredible opportunity to incubate literally new forms of creativity and innovation.”

“The partnership between Montalvo and CADRE was established in September 2007, and is an important collaborative effort for all organizations involved as well as Silicon Valley,” said Bob Sain, executive director of Montalvo. “Together, the organizations bring an unmatched billing of artists to the Bay Area, furthering our efforts to expand the role of the arts, artists and arts organizations as a resource and asset for culture and community.”

FUSE artists reside at [Montalvo's Sally and Don Lucas Artists Programs](#) while working with San Jose State University graduate students and Silicon Valley industry partners to research and develop projects that will be featured at the FUSE's first venue, the Biennial ZERO1 San Jose (01SJ) Global Festival of Art on the



Edge, to be held in San Jose from June 4 through 8. In keeping with Montalvo's strong commitment to facilitating a wide array of contacts between resident artists and members of the surrounding community, Montalvo staff also work with CADRE and all FUSE artists to arrange such public events as lectures, workshops, and educational outreach activities at Montalvo venues, as well as venues throughout the region.

Red76, in collaboration with CADRE students and staff, are working to explore the possibilities of [Second Life](#) as a platform for investigations into social histories and the sometimes invisible roles that these histories play within society as a whole. With Second Life serving as an entry point, the project aims to utilize the virtual world as a tool to help broaden dialogue surrounding relevant social concerns relating to the histories of individuals and groups. Second Life will serve as a meeting ground and venue to realize and formulate ideas and plans before bringing these social histories into the real world, while also bringing the real world - through personal histories, reenactments, social forums, and the virtual embodiment and examination of real-self - into Second Life; continuously shifting back and forth as needed or desired depending on the nature of each history examined. At O1SJ Red76 plans to use these investigations from Second Life as a starting point for discussion on how the public may access new media tools through the side door; developing unique ideas and applications for digital technology askew from its creator's original intentions.

Mongrel's installation, *Tantulum Memorial*, is a telephony based memorial to the people who have died as a result of the "coltan wars" in the Congo, which have resulted in 3.8 million deaths and hundreds of thousands of Congolese refugees. Much of this exodus has been caused by political oppression and civil wars over control of the area's natural resources, one of which is coltan. The mineral is mined for the metal tantulum - an essential component of mobile phones that is now more valuable than gold. This work weaves together the ambiguities and consequences of globalization, transnational migration, refugees and the impact of society's addiction to constant communication. Mongrel's work forms a sculptural presence to memorialize the coltan wars by reconstructing a bank of redundant Strowger switches and using them to count the 3.8 million war victims up to the present day.

Bulbo's project focuses on working with at-risk youth in San Jose communities to create a permanent digital media outlet for youth to tell their stories, concerns and ideas that will help better their communities. Bulbo has partnered with CommUniverCity San Jose – an organization collaborating with San Jose State University and communities Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace to successfully establish priorities and goals for the residents, which include improving quality of life, building community, and engaging all participants in civic life. Together bulbo and CommUniverCity created the *FW/BT Mobile Broadcast Unit*, a public art project to have teenagers from the Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace neighborhood create original video content via cell phones to be shared through the Internet. Bulbo uses their experience with digital media to teach the teens how to utilize this common yet growing resource, resulting in direct links between participants and San Jose State University, providing them with resources to have effective dialogue through streaming video.

**About Montalvo Arts Center**

Montalvo Arts Center is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to capturing the innovative and diverse spirit of Silicon Valley and engaging people in contemporary concerns through the arts. Located in Silicon Valley's Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center rests on 175 stunning acres, including the Sally and Don Lucas Artist Programs, an international artist residency; a historic Mediterranean villa, two theaters, a gallery and 2.5 miles of hiking trails. The historic villa and grounds were left to the people of California in 1930 by Senator James Phelan for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture. For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call 408-961-5800 or visit [www.montalvoarts.org/](http://www.montalvoarts.org/).

**About CADRE Laboratory for New Media**

The CADRE Laboratory for New Media is an interdisciplinary academic and research program dedicated to the experimental use of information technology and art at San Jose State University. Established in 1985, CADRE is one of the oldest and most prestigious centers for new media practice in the United States. The program's theoretical and critical orientation provides a conceptual context that is one of the hallmarks of cutting-edge artistic practice today.

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