

“Peoples’ Portrait” harnesses the internet as a dynamic vehicle for creating global portraits of people rendered in real time and displayed instantly around the world. Eight photo capture kiosks are installed in Adelaide, Australia; Beijing, China; Linz, Austria; New York, USA; and Seoul and Daejeon in South Korea, to allow people to take their own portraits. New York based new media art institution Eyebeam is the web portal for the project. Public video walls, including The Reuters Sign in Times Square – the world’s largest digital display system, as well as Museum of the Future in Ars Electronic Center (Austria), COMO SK Telecom Tower (S. Korea), Downtown Adelaide (Australia), Beijing Cubic Art Center (China) join forces to display the portraits in chorus. Zhang Ga creates a transfixing visual representation of our world.

Nam June Paik’s “Good Morning Mr. Orwell” is the video version of his first international satellite “installation”, created on New Year’s Day of the much anticipated Orwellian year 1984. It was the first artwork to use telecommunications to enable an intercontinental exchange of culture, broadcasting live via satellite simultaneously between the US, Canada, Germany and South Korea. Today, this vision of global connectivity has come to be realized as the Internet. The event featured vibrant performances by Laurie Anderson, Merce Cunningham, Peter Gabriel and Allen Ginsberg, and many well-known artists.

Kurt Ralske and Troika Ranch founder, Mark Coniglio are also inventors of technology and software that artists around the world are using as new artistic tools. Ralske’s video installations and performances are created exclusively with his own custom software that is in use by artists in 22 countries. Mark Coniglio, a composer, media artist, and co-founder of Troika Ranch with choreographer, Dawn Stoppielo, invented Isodora - a graphic programming environment that provides interactive control over digital media.

Nina Colosi is the Producer and Curator of The Project Room, which she initiated in 2003 at Chelsea Art Museum. A Movable Feast launches a new aspect to The Project Room – the production and support of arts, education and public art projects internationally, and a strong focus on finding new models of support for the arts that bring together the arts and commerce in mutually beneficial ways. "Our main objective is to create innovative art experiences for the general public and present educational programs with the artists who create them," says Colosi. Programs this year will take place in NYC, Buenos Aires, Beijing, Tel Aviv, London, Paris and other cities.

The launch has been made possible by FJC - A Foundation of Donor Advised Funds. Reuters and Times Square Alliance are sponsors of “Peoples’ Portrait”. “Good Morning Mr. Orwell” courtesy of Electronic Arts Intermix. Advisors to the program are: Dan Ionescu Architect, Apogee Management, Lawrence J. Selevan, iCase Group, 21 Productions, Anne St. James, Drake Life Venture Capital, and Joe Ginsberg Inc.

Schedule of events at 13 Crosby Street:

Exhibition, March 12, 6:00-9:00 PM and March 13, 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Talks by artists and lecture by Curator Paulina Kolczynska, “Collecting New Media Art”,

Monday, March 13, 7:00-9:30PM

“Peoples’ Portrait” will be displayed on The Reuters Sign at 3 Times Square one minute in every ten minutes, March 3 – 26. Visitors can have their pictures taken and broadcast to public spaces in cities around the world from the kiosk located in the Times Square Alliance Information Center. The center is on 7th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets, and open every day from 8am to 8pm.