

Mimicking Whooper

2016

Kinect 2, Unity3D game engine, Maya, computer, sound, color, Variable Dimentions

In Collaboration with the Imaging Research Center - UMBC
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SRAIS Grant - UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County)

UMBC - IRC (Imaging Research Center) - CAHSS - SFRF Grant

Cathy C. Cook

Friends of Patuxent



Tex dances with Dr. George Archibald - ICF, WI 1980's



Dr. Erickson Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, MD, 1968



Scott Derrickson Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, 1982



Crane caretaker wearing a crane imprint suit

Do Not Attempt This With Live Cranes.

Direct interaction with cranes is a rare experience reserved for those in wildlife management and crane conservation programs. However - when observing them in person I have a strong desire to mimic and communicate with them. That desire inspired me to create ***Mimicking Whooper***.

Mimicking Whooper uses state of the art gaming software to provide an opportunity to virtually interact with these birds - to figuratively dance their dance.

This virtual interaction provides an engaging, fun and personalized glimpse into the magnificent world of crane behavior. The crane has approximately 30 communicative gestures and many distinct vocal forms

Cathy C. Cook – Bio - 2016

<http://www.cathycook.info>
cccook.wordpress.com

Cathy C. Cook has been creating films, videos, poetry films, animation, collages and installations since the early 1980's. Cook's new project takes her to the largest migration locations for Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes to create the ***Cranes in Motion*** project. In 2012 and 2014 she received research grants from UMBC and the IRC to develop and produce this multi-media collection of works.

In 2001, Cook was awarded a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. She has exhibited her award-winning work internationally in both solo and group shows including screenings at MOMA and the Whitney Museum. Currently she is an Associate Professor in Visual Arts at The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Prior to moving to Baltimore, Cook worked in New York City for 11 years as an Art Director in the Film/TV industry. While in NYC, she also taught Film/Video production and Animation at various New York area colleges. Cook migrates between Baltimore and Wisconsin. During the summer she lives on a small swampy lake with her dog Zippy where they share residence with cranes, loons, deer, otters, herons and coyotes.

As an artist and filmmaker, Cathy Cook has always been inspired by nature, capturing images that impose a reminder of the vulnerability of the natural world and our responsibility to it. Nature, topical social issues, and poetry have been staples in Cook's creative work over the last 32 years. Specific to her filmmaking, she has established a collage style process and aesthetic that is non-narrative, surreal and integrates multiple media techniques. ***Cranes in Motion*** aims to promote public interest, awareness, and appreciation of crane culture through a multifaceted portrayal of the natural history of this species and to allow the viewer to understand their human relationship to these extraordinary birds and our shared ecosystems.

IMMORTAL CUPBOARD: In Search of Lorine Niedecker won a Jury Award at the 2009 Wisconsin Film Festival and was nominated for the Best of Documentary at the 2010 Beloit International Film Festival. The film has screened at the Anthology Film Archives and the Bowery Poetry Club in NYC. In addition Cook presented the film for the 2009 Fall for the Book Festival at George Mason University and in San Francisco in Spring of 2010. ***IMMORTAL CUPBOARD*** was aired on Wisconsin Public TV along with an interview which was part of, "Director's Cut."