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### ■ Colloquium III *Into the Internet?: New Technologies and the De-materialisation of Art*

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*Desire by Design : Woman Artists and New Technologies*

**ABSTRACT :** This paper offers an analysis of several art projects on the net and artworks by women artists which rely on new technologies (VR, CD-Rom, Computer-operated systems or the Internet). It is proposed that these recent artworks have forced a shift in expectation in viewing and reception when compared with conventional 'art's viewing habits of 'distance' and contemplation. Interconnectivity and a new approach to understanding human perception are two models often proposed. This acknowledged shift in perception has been exploited by some artists as a valuable mechanism for questioning ideologies and conventional patterns of thought - for others, it is simply a new formalistic strategy, a new media which allows the continuation of the avantgarde project of experimentation. How do we recognise and analyse the difference in these approaches ? And is there a gendered approach to these differences on the part of the artists or is it merely in the habits of the viewer ?

**BIOGRAPHY** Katy Deepwell is a freelance art critic, lecturer and artist, President, AICA, British Section. She is founding editor of **n.paradoxa:international feminist art journal** (online since Dec 1996 <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/n.paradoxa/index.htm>). n.paradoxa is also in print since January 1998. She is the editor of several books: - *Women Artists and Modernism* (Manchester Univ. Press, July 1998) ; *Art Criticism and Africa* ( London, Saffron Books / EAR, 1997); and *New Feminist Art Criticism: Critical Strategies* (Manchester Univ.Press, 1995, Spanish edition, 1998). She has contributed to many other journals in the UK and abroad including: *Sixst: Nordic Art Review*, *Contemporary Visual Arts*, *Women's Art Magazine* and *Art History*. She has lectured in several Universities in UK including Maidstone and Canterbury at KIAD, Goldsmiths' College, Oxford-Brookes University and has spoken abroad at many conferences, most recently in Vienna & Graz (July 1998), Stockholm,Umea & Göttenburg (March 1998) and Toronto (Feb.1998).