

3dhybrids – Lukas Birk 10420429

Self-evaluation – “Quartz Conductor”

Throughout the process of creating my “Quartz Conductor” device I felt that I was producing a device for somebody else. I believed - and still do- that “Quartz Conductor” is a tool especially for VJ’s at clubs or raves. The visuals are very “techno”. This is not my kind of music but the visuals I created suit electronic music much better than Jazz or Blues. When I started creating the tool my knowledge of Quartz Composer was still very limited. The interface and object controls in Quartz Composer were frustrating at the beginning of the process. As soon as I understood the concept however, it started to become easier. These moments somehow encouraged me to continue working on the tool. The playful development enabled me to create even pre-visualised ideas after a while.

I used Video files, live video input, live audio input, photos and graphics to create my patches. I was inspired by Quartz Composer artists like Zugakousaku for some of my patches. Others were entirely my own idea and composition. The most important thing in the development of this device was concentrating on its purpose. I had a lot of different ideas for good-looking patches but most of them would not fit in a club environment or would not fit with the previous patches. The most difficult device to work with was the live video input. It was difficult to control the input with particle systems or other 3D render patches. But as all my problems I was able to solve them through trying and trying differently. If I had known already from the beginning of the semester that this was going to be my final project I could have experimented in the studies with different things. I really wanted to include a midi device and more live cameras but time and money did not allow me to take this step. If I had to give advice to someone who wants to do something similar to me I would say: write down the locations within Quartz Composer and name all the patches in a

logical way. Half way through the process I stopped working on the project for two weeks and when I returned to it I did not know what was what. This is also advice I would give myself: better structure!

Conclusion:

“Quartz Conductor” is not only a fun tool but a device that works with new technology and combines the physical and virtual world. A 3dhybrid! I think I fulfilled the requirements of the assignment by creating an original tool which combines the two worlds. It also has artistic as well as commercial values. I want to work on it in the future and try to develop a perfectly working tool!