



Panoram

Of the
Oakland Camera Club
 Member of the
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 and
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 Jim Johnston, President
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San Francisco Dedicates a Monument to 3-D Photography



San Francisco's newest tourist attraction: The Stereo Photography Monument by Dlorah Eziab

By Harold Baize

It has been many years in coming but the City of San Francisco has finally given stereo photography the recognition and respect it deserves. Ceremonies were held Sunday April first to dedicate the city's monument to stereo photography. The massive monument consists of a 25 foot high statue of a Stereo Realist camera. The monument was sculpted from Italian blue granite and black veined white marble by famous artist Dlorah Eziab with careful attention to recreating the beauty of the camera that started the modern era of stereo photography.

The monument, which weighs in excess of 40 tons, graces civic center plaza near the City Hall and is rumored to have cost the City more than 12 million dollars.

With great pomp and circumstance, Willie Brown (aka: Da Mayor), cut the ribbon before a crowd of about three thousand stereo enthusiasts. Hundreds of stereo cameras were present to

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record the important event. People came from all over the world to be at the event, including Hollywood celebrities and even Dr. T from O-hi-O. Most of the members of the Oakland Camera Club Stereo Division were also there for the fun and hosted a large party following the dedication. Some OCC members were heard to question why the City of Oakland didn't erect the monument.

Unfortunately the good times were marred by a near disaster as the huge stone lens cover suddenly broke off the

monument and seriously injured two Japanese tourists. A very defensive Eziab claimed that the incident was not his fault, stating: "I was merely being as faithful as possible to the design of the original camera!"

Observers were not at all forgiving, suggesting that he should have either made the massive stone lens cover stronger, or attached it with something other than those small metal clips.

-Harold

Revolutionary Stereo Window Introduced

Most stereo photographers are aware of the importance of the stereo window. Sometimes you would not know it from the entries in some International Exhibitions, but the stereo window is very important, and is both loved and hated by stereo enthusiasts. Some stereo window supporters swear by it. Now, thanks to the researchers at DDDoubleView, Inc., everyone can have a stereo window in the home. Based on a remarkable new technology, it is possible to have a window through which anyone can see the world in full, startling, stereoscopic depth.

You may wonder how this miracle has been achieved. We asked Donald Davis Dampski, executive vice president of international public relations at DDDoubleView. "Essentially," he said, "we strive to be the world market leader in stereoscopic window technology solutions." When further pressed to actually say something, he mumbled more vague talk of "solutions", but eventually he alluded to a patented material that utilizes what he called **General Light Attenuating Silicon Substrate** (GLASS). This new

GLASS material promises to provide stereoscopic vistas to every home. According to our sources, the viewer simply needs to stand close to the "stereo window" while relaxing both of the eyes and looking out into the distance. No special eyewear required. The result is a truly amazing stereoscopic view of the world outside.

Some viewers claim that it is more entertaining than a standard 2-D television. It may even pose a threat to the burgeoning video game industry. In fact, the DDDoubleView company initially approached Sony about marketing the new GLASS stereo window technology. Talks broke off however, following the disastrous failure at Sony, caused by their inability to deliver their much anticipated PPS2 machines. Donald D. Dampski remarked, "We're going with our second choice. We're going to sell our stereoscopic window viewing solutions through the Home Depot, and other hardware stores.

-Harold

RBTt Cameras for the Masses!

Raumbildtechnik (RBTt) of Aichwald, Germany, has announced that the Ricco Company of Tokyo, Japan, will begin to mass produce RBTt stereo cameras this year. List price of a basic camera is expected to run about USD 200 with fixed lenses and about USD 400 with linked zoom lenses. Additional models are expected to follow as the demand for these cameras expands. The Raumbildtechnik company expects to also offer a vari-

ety of very inexpensive stereo projectors and viewers. The new and improved RBTt line of cameras will be sold exclusively at K-mart stores under the easy to remember name **RBT-BLS—Raumbildtechnik -Blue Light Special**. Trademark pending.

-Oleg (and Harold)

Stereo Photographs Cure Depression: Might Replace Prozac

Research psychologists at the prestigious Really Really Really Depressed Research Group, at the University of California at San Francisco (RRRDRG - UCSF) have discovered a previously unknown and highly effective treatment for depression and other affective disorders.

The discovery came when two patients tried to take a group photograph of the clinical faculty at the Center for Therapeutic Efforts for Really Really Really Depressed People (CTERRRDP). The very depressed patients inadvertently snapped their shutters at the same time. When they got the pictures back they had a stereo pair. Uncontrolled joviality broke out.

Clinicians were skeptical at first but soon found that

patients with stereoscopic pictures were happier and required less anti-depression medication.

Doctors ordered all the stereo cameras they could obtain, sending prices on eBay to extreme highs. Word of the discovery spread quickly and many camera manufacturers pledged to bring new stereo cameras to the marketplace. Meanwhile, the stock value of the Eli Lilly and Company (NYSE:LLY) dropped to an all time low as investors prepared for the loss of sales for *Prozac* and other anti-depressants.

-Harold



A depressed patient after treatment

The Future of Stereo Photography?

Don't throw away your Realists yet, but Dr. John C. Linkerhof, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, describes in the respected journal *Science* a technique for extracting stereo information from an ordinary color slide.

The technique is based on recovering horizontal asymmetries from the "circles of confusion" originally beamed at the film. Using a bank of personal computers programmed to emulate neural networks, along with a supercomputer using fractal mathematics, Dr. Linkerhof has produced stereo pairs that are astonishingly realistic.

The slide is first scanned to map its grain structure in three dimensions, emulsion layer by emulsion layer. A host of innovative and conventional image processing techniques are then employed to tease out the available stereoscopic information. Among them are: 1) recovering the angles at which rays impinged on the film's emulsion, 2) discarding optical clutter generated by overlapping circles of confusion, 3) discarding clutter due to irrelevant ray impingements, 4) creating a data-

base of homologous points available in the de-cluttered emulsion map, 5) some conventional image processing and, finally, 6) printing out of the stereo pair.

If the slide is taken of a close-up object, with a lens of large front diameter but at small aperture, and the lens is available for calibration at Dr. Linkerhof's laboratory, the three dimensional effect in the ultimate stereo pair is stunning. The three dimensional effect is progressively weaker from slides taken of more distant objects, at greater apertures and with lenses of unknown characteristics.

The most astonishing aspect of this technique is that the software developed for analyzing film can extract some three dimensional information even from a second generation image, i.e. a print. Viewing the resulting stereo pair one sees mainly a sharpening of the image, but with close-up subjects a touch of depth can also be perceived.

-Oleg

Everything on this page is real. Seriously, I mean it. This page is true

Stereo Photography Web Resources:

Important news, the Photo-3d list has moved again! The Photo-3d list is an internet discussion mailing list for stereo photography. All of the Photo-3d lists are now part of Yahoo Groups. To join the list serve go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/photo-3d/join>

or send a blank e-mail to:

photo-3d-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(for separate messages)

Other useful web sites:

National Stereoscopic Association

<http://nsa-3d.org/>

Photographic Society of America

<http://members.aol.com/psastereo/SDinfo.html>

Stereoscopy

<http://www.stereoscopy.com/>

Stereo3d.com

<http://www.stereo3d.com/3dhome.htm>

The stereoscopic displays and applications site

<http://www.stereoscopic.org/index.html>

At the March Stereo Division meeting we enjoyed the final showing of the 2001 Oakland International Stereo Exhibition. In addition to the showing of the Exhibition we all enjoyed lengthy discussions of equipment and technique.

The meeting was well attended with the usual cast of characters, plus some first time guests. Dave Spaulding made the long drive from the silicon valley to catch the show.

The OCC Calendar

Meetings:

Oakland Camera Club Stereo Division meets on the first Tuesday of every month except December.

Our meetings are held at the Salem Lutheran Home, 2361 East 29th Street, Oakland California, at 7:30 pm. The Salem Lutheran Home has installed a security gate. Don't be alarmed. Just press 001 on the number pad and tell them you are with the Oakland Camera Club. There is ample parking available in a lot below the main building, take the first right turn after you enter the gate.

Stereo Division

This division will meet at 7:30 pm at the Salem Luthran Home on April 3rd. There will be **NO COMPETITION** (we will have another double competition later to make up). The program will be a showing of the PSA Stereo Traveling Salon, complete with an informal judging via voting machine (by Jim Johnston, John Bonwell & Barrie Bieler) to select the top three slides and several HM slides. This will be similar to our own Exhibition you saw last month, but with much less pressure on the committee!

The May program will be a showing of the PSA Stereo Slide Sequence program, as well as a usual single competition in slides and cards.

Slide/Print Division

The April 12 meeting of this division will be at the home of Jim Callahan at 7:30 pm. Please call him a day or two in advance if you plan to attend. The meeting in May will be at the home of Bob Baker.

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