



**“SOMETIMES I
CLOSE MY EYES...”**

PROCESS WORK BY AARON ROSE

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NOVEMBER 3RD-30ST, 2008
BEDFORD AVENUE GALLERY



THERE IS NOTHING TANGIBLE OR
WANTED IN THIS ROOM.



ARTIST STATEMENT

Sometimes I close my eyes, and I try to make what I see. But what I see is always changing, and when I try to slow it down and capture it, it stops being what it is. So for once, I tried to make nothing. Rather than creating an object, I tried to approximate a process. Instead of representing a phenomenon, I attempted to activate it.

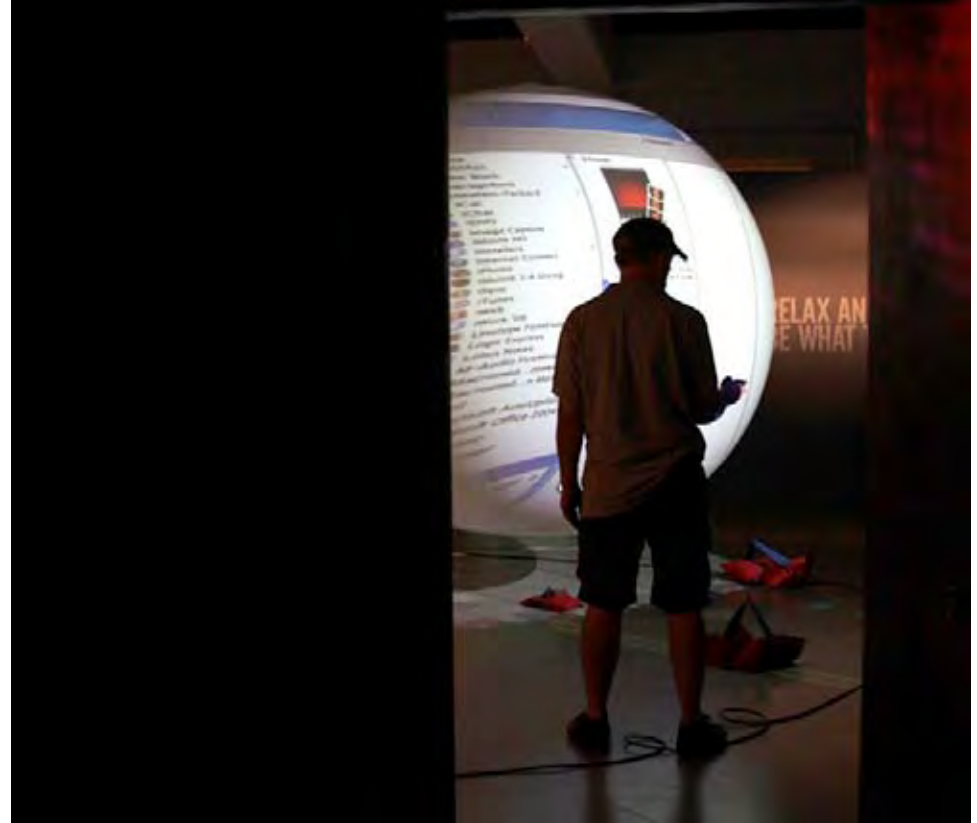
“Sometimes I Close My Eyes...” is inspired by a neurologically-based phenomenon known as synesthesia, where one sensory experience gets confused with another. Hearing a sound can make you see a color, or vice versa. A certain sequence of musical notes could trigger you to see a shape, or experience a sharp taste. Sometimes, letters and numbers have specific color values attached to them, so you might always see the letter R as red, or the number 6 as blue. As you walk through the installation, your presence generates an image (made of light) and/or a sound (made of waves). The wave you create initiates a light signature, and the light turns back into sound, or another image, and so on. In this way, everyone who enters the gallery contributes to an organic, non-hierarchical system composed of fluid shapes and sounds – our own language where the senses are meant to be confused.

There is nothing tangible or permanent in this room. It is an interactive installation that this entirely process-oriented, created by the audience as it is experienced. Everything is in a constant state of constant flux; no two moments of the show are ever the same. Nothing is being recorded or preserved; each sound and image is birthed, then dies right before your eyes (and ears). The technology is as crude as it can be and still be functional; the materials are ephemeral (light and sound). The only thing in this room that is “real” is you, the audience, which means that you are both author and audience at once. But don’t stress! Relax and let things be what they are. Its not about the product, its about the process. You can’t do anything wrong.

Aaron Rose, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2008



**IT'S NOT ABOUT THE PRODUCT,
IT'S ABOUT THE PROCESS.**



**RELAX AND LET THINGS
BE WHAT THEY ARE.**



CURATOR'S STATEMENT

The Bedford Avenue Gallery is proud to present "Sometimes I Close My Eyes..." a multimedia installation by Aaron Rose. Aaron is a recent graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and this is his first individual show in the New York area.

A sculptor of light working in the tradition of Dan Flavin; an irreverent conceptual artist in the spirit of Lawrence Weiner; a filmmaker whose abstractions of nature invoke Stan Brakhage; an eclectic musician like John Cage: Aaron Rose is all of these. And yet, if you asked him yourself, he'd tell you that he doesn't consider himself an artist at all.

It could be argued that all artists, through the very act of their creating, are engaged in the passage of an inner vision to an external form. But in the case of Aaron Rose, we find a negation of the very notion of "artistic vision." When describing his work, Rose uses words like "assembly," "apparatus," "mechanism" – egoless language that accords no more status to the artist who organized the installation than to the workers who made the projectors in their factories, or a lost child who finds himself wandering through the gallery by accident. According to Rose, he has merely assembled a kind of Rube Goldberg machine made of sound and light, no more "artistic" than an 8th grade science project, or complex than a home video. But don't believe Aaron Rose. Because after interacting with the installation, it will be clear to you that it was conceived by one mind, one man, and that this man is nothing if not an artist. One who is just taking his first steps in opening our ears and eyes, our hearts and our minds, to the depths of his very personal, very singular vision of the world.

This show was made possible with assistance from The Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) and The Jason Douglas Bainbridge Foundation.

Rufus Humphrey, NOVEMBER, 2008

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.