

## inIVA Digital Archive : Race Representation and the Digital Domain

<b>Title</b>	inIVA Digital Archive
<b>Subtitle</b>	Race Representation and the Digital Domain
<b>Lead-in / Abstract</b>	Through its Digital Archive project inIVA intends to engage in a process of re-examining digital media to see if there are particular multimodal and multisensory aspects of the digital environment and technology that afford us new perspectives and positions from which to interrogate and navigate the 'archive' in fresh and meaningful ways.
<b>Participants and speakers</b>	Stewart, Gary (GB)
<b>Short biography of participants</b>	inIVA creates exhibitions, publications, multimedia, education and research projects designed to bring the work of artists from culturally-diverse backgrounds to the attention of the widest possible public. Anchored in the diversity of contemporary British culture and society, inIVA engages with culturally-diverse practices and ideas, both local and global. inIVA invites artists and audiences to question assumptions about contemporary art and ideas. It acts as a catalyst for making these debates and artworks part of mainstream culture extending the intellectual, social and geographical boundaries of debate on contemporary visual art.
<b>Full text</b>	<p>As part of our ongoing investigation and long term research into the 'Archive' inIVA has been looking at the archive and its relationship to culture, identity, digital media and technology.</p> <p>Most people have an archive of some description: photographs, letters, papers that record personal histories. Mining the archive and retrieving histories have increasingly become the mainstay of many museums and galleries. Contemporary art organisations, curators and critics are also delving deep into the archive of post-war contemporary culture to reclaim 'lost' artists and art histories. But reviving the past is full of pitfalls. It is easy to romanticise the past and gaze back through rose-tinted spectacles or to 'put a spin' on past episodes only to serve current political ends. Our view of the past is inevitably shaped by present concerns and perspectives but is it possible to re-shape the present by re-examining our histories? Can a search through the archive be more than a nostalgic rummage through historical events? Can looking back critically at past episodes make a difference to our future?</p> <p>For ISEA2004 we propose to present our findings from these questions through a re-examination of digital media to see if there are particular multimodal and multisensory aspects of the digital environment and technology that afford us new perspectives and positions from which to interrogate and navigate the 'archive' in fresh and meaningful ways.</p> <p>inIVA's Digital Archive brings together exhibitions, talks, film screenings and web projects which re-tell forgotten histories in a way that casts a different light not only on the past but equally on the present. They recount stories that are often incomplete, fragmentary or unfinished but which are tied together by a common theme of struggle.</p> <p>We intend to explore how digital technology reflects the archives ability to create a sense of media in transition where the traditionally established linear exploration of a collection of media collides with the emerging hypermedia processes of database driven systems.</p> <p>But its not only about technologies but also the process, uniquely inIVA as well as commissioning established new media artists continues to invite and commission artists from non digital fields of practice to play an active role in our digital projects as we believe that the field cannot be addressed other than combining, or synthesising knowledge's. The way our Digital Archive has developed reflects this approach and we would very much like to invite others to debate what we consider to be the fundamental 'virtues' of this approach with the participants of ISEA 2004.</p>
<b>Related internet addresses</b>	<a href="http://www.iniva.org/archive/index">http://www.iniva.org/archive/index</a>