Motion Designer Scott Pagano and Electronic Musician Christopher Willits Visit SLU & NCAT

On January 23 – 25, 2008, St. Lawrence played host to two simultaneous artists’ residencies that fit the NCAT to a T. Motion designer and film director Scott Pagano cites influences ranging from minimal painting to cinema. His meticulously constructed abstract artworks push the boundaries of audio-visual composition and processes, using a dynamic mix of cinematographic and synthetic imagery. His music videos and motion art works have been screened in venues ranging from international film festivals to MTV. In the process, he has worked with a wide range of notable musicians, including BT and Speedy J.

Christopher Willits has been instrumental in redefining the guitar in the digital age. Using custom-built software, he morphs his guitar playing into rhythms of texture and melody that defy genre distinctions while still defining a sound of his own. He has had some 15 music releases over the last seven years, including collaborative projects covering a broad spectrum of musical styles.

During their stay at St. Lawrence, the two artists met with students both together and separately, talking about their work and the collaborative process. On Wednesday night, they gave a collaborative performance, blending live, interactive electronic music and imagery in a dynamic and one-of-a-kind event.

Both Pagano and Willits are artists who bring traditional backgrounds into the digital realm, and who use digital media technologies to accomplish some very successful interdisciplinary collaborations. In both of these respects, they exemplify what the NCAT will allow us to do at St. Lawrence in the coming years. Their visit was a pleasure. ☄️

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Left: Winston Room performance; Right: Pagano waxes philosophical about color theory while eating Jello
The new Newell Center for Arts Technology facility has been open for a year now, and both faculty and students have begun to hit their strides in making use of its resources.

At right and below are just a few examples of student work to come out of the NCAT so far this academic year.

Far Left: Digital image by Erin Cook ’09.
Left: Digital image by Lucia Bonsack ’10.

Far Left: You can’t hear it, but you can see it. Martin Papp ’08’s “The New Techno.”

Left: This interactive map was built in Flash by Samantha Rodriguez ’10, and is part of a series of Flash-based works about the people of this imaginary island.