

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

'Born Digital' brings high-tech art to CAM

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A digitally animated painting, a digital snow globe, musical swinging plants and a computer-generated dog.

These are just a few of the artistic creations that can be found in "Born Digital," a new exhibition that opened Saturday at Raleigh's Contemporary Art Museum.

The show includes 18 installations by 12 artists. Many are interactive, allowing patrons to manipulate the art through their movements or touch.

The artists use digital video cameras, custom software and the Kinect for Xbox 360 technology from Microsoft, a device that combines sensors, cameras and a microphone to track motion and sound on its own.

"We've got Kinects mounted all over the building for this show," said Elysia Borowy-Reeder, the museum's executive director.

In Daniel Rozin's "Snow Mirror," a video software projection slowly reveals the image before it. "It's like you're in a digital snow globe," Borowy-Reeder said.

In "Akousmaflore," a work by an artistic collaboration called Scenocosme, a garden of musical plants produce specific sounds when touched or placed close to a person.

Then there's "Sniff," an interactive projection in the museum's gallery windows that tracks a visitor's movements and gestures. A computer-generated dog follows them, responding to their gestures.

The exhibition features several artists with local connections. Jacob Ciocci grew up in the Triangle and now lives in Pittsburgh, and the Advanced Media Lab is based at N.C. State.

"Born Digital" is the Contemporary Art Museum's third installation since it opened in April.