



Heaven on Earth

Multimedia projection installation: A visual meditation celebrating our connections to the world around us.

Alan Kirker - January 2018

Project Brief

This media artwork began as a graduate studies project in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. It consists of a video projection of slowly rotating landscape panoramas that have been recorded in black and white digital infrared video, overlaid with typeset text passages from the twelfth century Sufi mystic and poet Rumi, and an ambient background soundtrack

The landscape recordings initially made within and nearby Waterloo Region aim to evoke sensations of eerily-entrancing otherworldliness. The glowing white vegetation created by the infrared's chlorophyll effect contrasts with dark waters and background skies to create a visual tableau that is all at once familiar, while also appearing strange and alien-like. Overlapping the striking infrared landscape imagery are poems and excerpts of Rumi's translated work that celebrate mystical love, and become tributes to the divine as manifest in nature and our surrounding physical environment. The background audio; a blend of ambient textures from Vancouver composer and musician Lee Rosevere and the video's field recorded sound, serve to both compliment and contrast with the visual and textual imagery.

The projected artwork represents a revealing of hidden beauty, not so much by overt placement or arrangement of objects within the frame, but via both science, through making the infrared spectrum visible; and art, through the poetry and the background rumble of ambient soundscapes. Human-defining analytical and creative traits afforded by both science and art now find significant application in eloquently illustrating our intrinsic spiritual bonds with the environment.

This media artwork projection is currently available for installation, and can be displayed via several options briefly outlined as follows:



Figure 1 – installation version consisting of two or more projections of the same media file, each projection delayed by approximately 100 seconds so as to create a contiguous and continuous wide moving image panorama over one or more surfaces.

Figure 2 – installation version consisting of one or more displays of the same media file, configured so that each display within the set shows a single tile of the part of the image, combining to form one contiguous moving image.

Contact Alan Kirker; alankirker@gmail.com, 519-578-0662, or visit alankirker.com for further information.