

THE TANK



The Blip Festival 2007

Four days of low-bit computer music and visual art

40 artists from 15 countries around the world

November 29 – December 2, 2007

presented by The Tank and 8bitpeoples

held at Eyebeam Atelier | 540 W 21st Street, New York NY

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<http://www.blipfestival.org>

[New York, NY - Oct 5, 2007] – Manhattan art space The Tank and New York artist collective 8bitpeoples announce the Blip Festival 2007, a four-day music and multimedia event focusing on the modern artistic exploration of primitive video game and home computer technology. Featuring 40 musicians and visualists from around the world, the Blip Festival showcases artists adopting and repurposing familiar but forgotten hardware – such as the Commodore 64, the Nintendo Entertainment System, the Atari game console and home computer line, and the Nintendo Game Boy – exploring their untapped potential and unique aesthetic character. The festival's nightly concerts and daytime screenings, workshops, and presentations are supplemented by B I T M A P : as good as new, an adjunct visual art exhibition, held at acclaimed Brooklyn gallery vertexList. The Blip Festival 2007 offers a fascinating cross-section of the chiptune musical aesthetic and related low-bit visual art, in an explosive event taking place at the epicenter of the creative world.



2006's inaugural Blip Festival was the first showcase of its kind and the largest event in the history of the form, drawing over 1400 attendees. And the Blip Festival 2007 sustains its predecessor's breakaway momentum. "Last year's lineup and turnout made clear that there's a large and growing interest in this movement that shouldn't be ignored," states Mike Rosenthal, Blip Festival co-curator and Managing Director of The Tank. "The Tank has been the New York home of the chiptune scene since about 2003, and we feel we owe it to this community to have a massive annual event that reaches out to the broader international community." Long-standing friends of The Tank, Chelsea's Eyebeam Atelier, lend their 5000 square-foot art space to this year's festival, providing it with a perfect home.

Culturally and artistically, the Blip Festival has become its own reward for everyone involved. "In hosting this event," states Rosenthal, "we not only nurture the chiptune scene by giving international artists a chance to meet each other face-to-face and to present their work, but we also give New Yorkers a unique chance to experience a very hip international subculture that continues to grow and thrive across the world." So those in-the-know and new initiates alike will enjoy a rare chance to experience this pioneering underground niche movement in digital art and music, buzzing with the excitement of familiar devices doing unfamiliar things. And chances are you'll find yourself dancing to some of the strangest, most resonant, and most unexpectedly compelling music you'll have ever heard. We'll see you November 29th.

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Selected highlights

For complete info on all artists and to purchase tickets, please see www.blipfestival.org from mid-October

Performing artists:

6955 (Japan)
8GB (Argentina)
Alex Mauer (Philadelphia, PA)
Anamanaguchi (New York, NY)
Bit Shifter (New York, NY)
Bodenständig 2000 (Germany)
Bokusatsu Shoujo Koubou (B.S.K.) (Japan)
Crazy Q (Sweden)
Gijs Gieskes (The Netherlands)
gwEm (United Kingdom)
Lo-bat. (Belgium)
Mark DeNardo (New York, NY)
Markus Schrodtt (Austria)
minusbaby (New York, NY)
No Carrier (Philadelphia, PA) - (visuals)
noteNdo (Baltimore, MD) - (visuals)
Nullsleep (New York, NY)
Oliver Wittchow (Germany)
Otro (France) - (visuals)
Postal_M@rket (Italy)
Rugar (Sweden)
Saskrotch (Chicago, IL)
Tree Wave (Dallas, TX)
Virt (New York, NY)
Yes, Robot (Spain)

+ many more to be announced.

Screenings and presentations:

The daytime program will feature a series of screenings and presentations focusing on various topics and themes within art, low-bit electronics, music and culture. Listings and schedule will be announced on the website.

**All events take place at Eyebeam Atelier on 540 W 21st Street in Chelsea, Manhattan.
See the website for directions and to purchase advance tickets.
Tickets are available both online from mid-October and at the door.**



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About the organizers

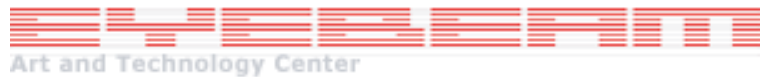
The Tank is a non/profit organization, bringing compelling cultural productions to New York City for over three years. With an eye for the offbeat and left-of-center, The Tank has provided New York with rare glimpses into new and unusual movements in art, such as the Bent Festival, an annual event focusing on the subversive practice of circuit-bending. A forerunner to the Blip Festival, the Bent Festival has enjoyed attendance in the thousands, and has been the subject of two feature/length documentaries. The Tank hosts experimental arts events most nights of the week in their Tribeca performing arts space.
www.thetanknyc.org



8bitpeoples, based in New York City, is a collective of musicians and artists dedicated to exploring the audiovisual style of low-bit video games and home computers. Championing this aesthetic, 8bitpeoples has become an internationally recognized hub of well-respected creative activity, and has become a driving force in advancing the growing international chiptune scene. 8bitpeoples and its individual members have been featured in *Wired*, *The New York Times*, *MSNBC.com*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Wire*, *MTV.com*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *GameSpot*, *Nintendo Power*, *XLR8R*, *frieze*, *FuseTV*, NPR's 'The Next Big Thing' and recently appeared in the documentary *8bit*, which premiered last October at New York's Museum of Modern Art.
www.8bitpeoples.com

Thanks

The Blip Festival is organized by The Tank and 8bitpeoples and in part sponsored by Make Magazine, Element Labs and Periscope Entertainment. The festival is presented with funding from The Greenwall Foundation and hosted by the Eyebeam Atelier on 540 W. 21st Street.



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Some of the Blip Festival's featured artists:



Tree Wave

Dallas, Texas

<http://www.treewave.com/>

Dallas-based band that makes shoegazy pop music and video using obsolete 70's and 80's computer and videogame gear, accompanied by female vocals. The code to drive the music and video is their own, and it's all dirty assembly language. Music comes from Commodore 64s, an old PC FM sound card (OPL3), and a dot matrix printer, and video is all Atari 2600. Their music is noisy pop, often with unusual song structure, and the video ranges from abstract color noise to actual hacked and deconstructed Atari 2600 games. Tree Wave perform regularly at festivals and new media venues in both New York and Europe.

Bodenständig 2000

Germany

<http://www.bodenstaendig.de/>

Having spent most of their youth playing video games, Bodenständig 2000 formed when the two Germans turned towards developing the acclaimed soundtracker-like music software "Deluxe Mjuzakk Zerbastel Kit" in an attempt to gain fame and wealth. After failed efforts, however, they decided using their creation to make music on their own.

Using this and numerous other devices, Bodenständig 2000 set out to create the definitive sound for the generation born next to flickering screens.

Their outstanding German lyrics and subtle poems tell stories from their lives as cablefreaks and computer kids.

Having released albums on Rephlex Records, micromusic.net and Beige Records among others, Bodenständig 2000 are known for their incredible live electronica rock shows that contrast sharply the typical laptop performance.

