



REGRETS Cambridge

an interactive archive, public conceptual artwork, and study regarding the human capacity for *regret* and *remorse*

10th - 20th NOVEMBER 2005, ENGLAND

Cambridge, 10th November 2005 – A series of captivating 'mobile units' will be seen roaming public spaces throughout Cambridge from today at the launch of a public conceptual artwork, entitled 'Regrets'. The project, which will be on show for ten days, will collect and display anonymous *regrets* from the public to comprise a sociological database of time and site-specific sentiment in the community. Regrets Cambridge is an interactive archive, a public conceptual artwork, and a study of communally shared but typically private *recollections*.

Think you haven't got any regrets? Think again. These artists and researchers take an alternative view of the capacity for *remorse* by seeing this thought process as an essential and poetic learning tool. The residents and visitors of Cambridge - a city known for its contribution to the history of introspective thought - are being asked to enter anonymous regrets into mobile units roaming the city. Entries are wirelessly relayed to a remote database where they are matched by a mathematical algorithm with other *similar* regrets from the archive. Each contributor receives instant feedback that lists a cluster of the most comparable regrets from others within the local community. This interaction effectively 'shares the burden' of remorse or discontent communally and allows for a *poetic* montage of emotion that may well include some thought-provoking incongruencies.

As well as anonymous personal interaction with the database, there is a parallel public aspect to the Regrets project; random selections of the locally shared regrets will infiltrate existing city signage, networks, and broadcasts. At the end of the project, regrets will be projected onto the walls of the city centre - extinguished before the Christmas lights get switched on around 19th November, [check 'regrets.org.uk' for updates].

Jane Mulfinger, one of those intrinsically involved in the project described it as "a gift to the public -- something we are bringing to them, rather than expecting the public to travel to the gallery." The mobile units themselves are rife with metaphor. For example, backpack units allow people to write or type information directly into a computer that is mounted on the back of a Regrets agent, symbolically transferring or 'sharing the burden' by getting it 'off your back' onto another's. Ballots and booths are also being used.

In addition, the team is encouraging contributions online through <http://regrets.org.uk> or by sending email to team@regrets.org.uk

More traditional pen and paper-based contributions are also being accepted at:
REGRETS Cambridge, P.O. Box 515, Cambridge, CB1 0BB, UK.



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About Regrets

The Regrets project team comprises Jane Mulfinger, Graham Budgett, and Carl Magagnosc. Jane Mulfinger and Graham Budgett are both artists and faculty members of the University of California, Santa Barbara. They currently live in Cambridge and are affiliated as researchers with the University of Westminster in London and Microsoft Research Cambridge. They have exhibited widely in the public arena and in commercial galleries including: Camden Arts Centre; St. Pancras Station; The British Library; The Victoria & Albert Museum; The Photographers' Gallery; & the Mayor Gallery, London; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Projects UK, Newcastle; Franklin Furnace Archive, New York; Orchard Gallery, Derry; Leefahsahlung Gallery, Chinatown, Los Angeles; and Pasadena Armory Center for the Arts. Carl Magagnosc is a freelance software engineer and consultant living in Santa Barbara, California.

Regrets Cambridge is sponsored by Microsoft Research, Cambridge, and the University of Westminster, London. For further information, please email: team@regrets.org.uk



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