

Preface

The International Symposium on Smart Graphics 2004 was held on May 23–25, 2004 in Banff, Canada. It was the fifth event in a series which originally started in 2000 as a AAAI Spring Symposium. In response to the overwhelming success of the 2000 symposium, its organizers decided to turn it into a self-contained event in 2001. With the support of IBM, the first two International Symposia on Smart Graphics were held at the T.J. Watson Research Center in Hawthorne, NY in 2001 and 2002. The 2003 symposium moved to the European Media Lab in Heidelberg to underline the international character of the Smart Graphics enterprise and its community. The 2004 symposium particularly emphasized the contribution of arts and design to the interdisciplinary field of Smart Graphics and was therefore held at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, an internationally recognized center of creative excellence.

The core idea behind these symposia is to bring together researchers and practitioners from the field of computer graphics, artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology and the fine arts. Each of these disciplines contributes to what we mean by the term “Smart Graphics”: the intelligent process of creating expressive and esthetic graphical presentations. While artists and designers have been creating communicative graphics for centuries, artificial intelligence focuses on automating this process by means of the computer. While computer graphics provides the tools for creating graphical presentations in the first place, cognitive sciences contribute the rules and models of perception necessary for the design of effective graphics. The exchange of ideas between these four disciplines has led to many exciting and fruitful discussions and the Smart Graphics symposia draw their liveliness from a spirit of open minds and the willingness to learn from and share with other disciplines.

We would like to thank all authors for the effort that went into their submissions, the program committee for their work in selecting and ordering contributions for the final program, the Banff Centre and our local organizers for providing space and time for hosting the event, and Springer-Verlag Heidelberg for publishing the proceedings in their Lecture Notes in Computer Science.

March 2004

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Antonio Krüger
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The 4th International Symposium on Smart Graphics was hosted at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada. Organizational support was given by the Banff New Media Institute (BNMI).

Smart Graphics

4th International Symposium, SG 2004, Banff, Canada,

May 23-25, 2004, Proceedings

Butz, A.; Krüger, A.; Olivier, P. (Eds.)

2004, VIII, 168 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-21977-4