Morphovision Popular at Overseas Exhibitions
Presented at SIGGRAPH2006 and ARS Electronica Festival 2006

Morphovision is a system that can create visual effects through the radiation of special light onto a model rotating at high speed. These effects include making it appear that the model is flexing and deforming, or being separated into pieces. This system is the result of research conducted with Mr. Toshio Iwai, a media artist, with the aim of pioneering new forms of visual expression by fusing art and technology. Morphovision was exhibited in the Emerging Technology section of SIGGRAPH2006 (the world’s largest international conference and exhibition on computer graphics), which took place between July 30 and August 3, 2006, in Boston, the United States. During the five day exhibition period, the morphovision exhibit consistently drew a crowd that expressed their amazement at the ever-transforming realistic stereoscopic images it generated. In addition to the actual system exhibit, we also gave an oral presentation about research on Morphovision, explaining the principle of the phenomenon that makes the three-dimensional object appear to be deformed.

We got another chance to show Morphovision overseas after we received an invitation from a world famous media art event, the ARS Electronica Festival 2006 (held annually at Linz, Australia), which was held from August 31 to September 5. Morphovision earned a high evaluation as a new form of video expression that cannot be presented through conventional display systems. This recognition is noteworthy because most of the visitors of the event are used to seeing cutting-edge art forms. The new form of video expression fuses art and technology, and has given us an opportunity to question the concept of “viewing” an object, or the essence of video presentation. Morphovision will be a part of the permanent exhibitions at the ARS Electronica Center, a media art museum, for a year.

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