

**A Visualist's Practice:  
Explorations of Interfaces and Exercises for Live Video Performance**

by

Alexander Blair Neal

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Examining Committee:

Curtis Bahn, Thesis Adviser

Pauline Oliveros, Member

Kathy High, Member

Kathleen Forde, Member

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Troy, New York

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis investigates the use of live video performance within a musical context. Live video performance involves projected video imagery that is digitally manipulated through the use of software in real-time. A performer of live video may use hardware interfaces that permit a level of expressiveness on par with that of a musical instrument. Artists have been creating and refining different interfaces for interacting with light and images in a musical context for centuries. Early interfaces relied on an idea of directly connecting musical elements, such as pitch, with abstract visual elements, such as color. Modern methods of interacting with video do not require these direct connections to musical elements, and instead allow the video to be an independent contributor to the experience of a new kind of multimedia performance. I give an example of an interface for live video performance by detailing my own expressive visual instrument. I also outline the use of live video in the culmination of my thesis work, a performance of five multimedia pieces that explore the various relationships between projected video and music.

Keywords: Visualist, Visual Music, VJ, Audio-Visual, Visual Performance, Live Interactive Video