

# Flash Art International

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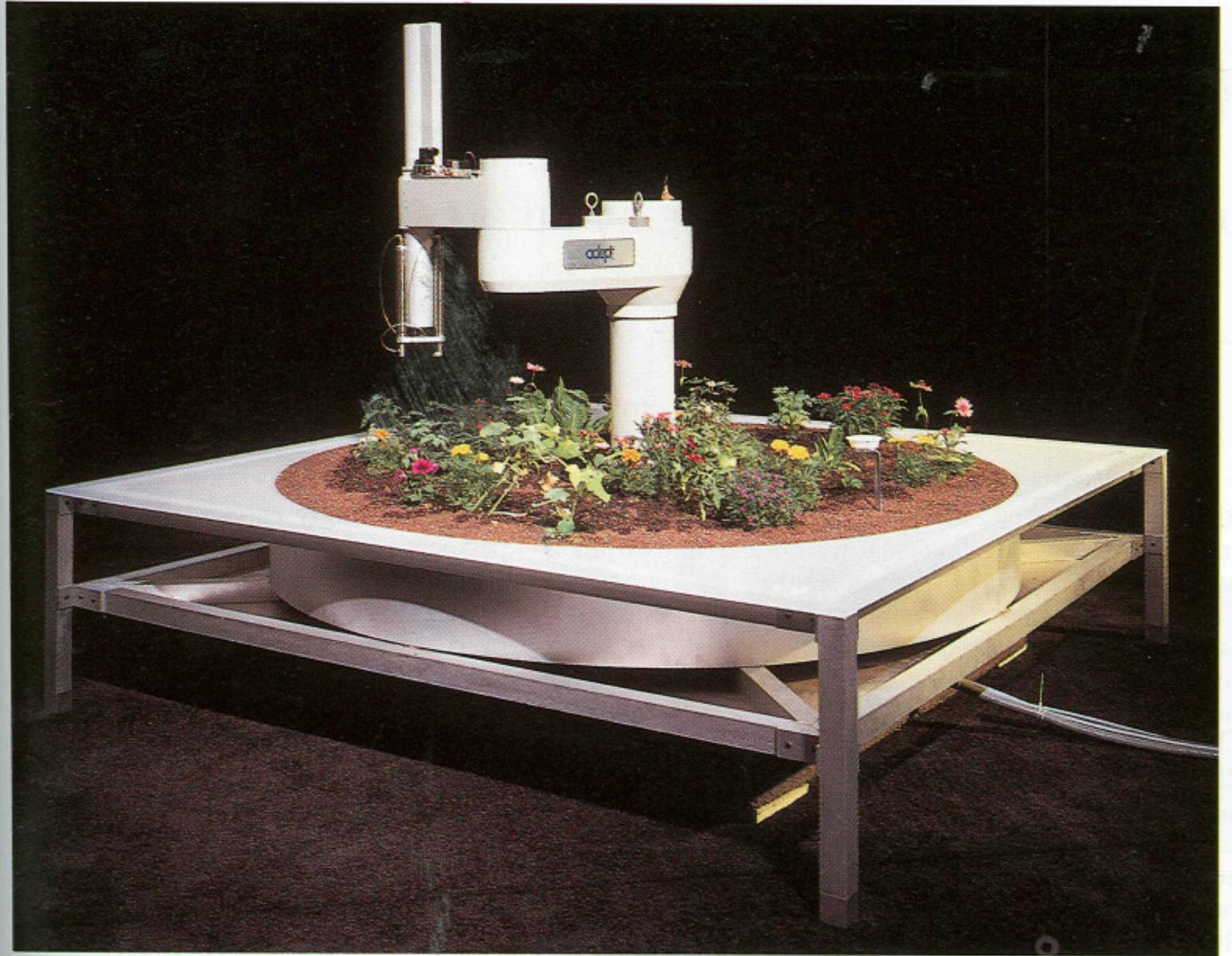
Elizabeth Peyton (cover: Kurt, 1995) - Israeli and Palestinian Art - Films by Artists  
Andreas Gursky - Lynda Benglis - Antonio Martorell - Anton Henning - Sarah Dobai  
Beat Culture - Everything That's Interesting is New - Cityscape Taipei



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# **Technofornia**

**Peter Lunenfeld**



Ken Goldberg, Installation view of The TeleGarden, 1995.  
Photo Robert Wedemeyer.

The CD-ROM can function as a souvenir from "Technofornia," but the Web makes the very notion of a show based on locality a moot point. In the *TeleGarden* (<http://www.usc.edu/dept/garden/>) (1995), Ken Goldberg embraces the paradox of immaterial physical environments. A UC Berkeley roboticist and artist, Goldberg (with a team including Joey Santarromano, George Bekey, Steven Gentner, Rosemary Morris, Carl Sutter, and Jeff Wiegley) created a small plot of petunias, peppers, and marigolds, installed a robot arm to seed and water the plants, and rigged a live video feed to keep watch. In linking their garden to the World Wide Web, and creating an intuitive interface for the control of the arm and camera, Goldberg and the others transformed what most would consider a fit of over-engineering into a subtle rumination on the nature of the commons. Anyone with a Web browser can access the site, and the rights to water and plant are given to those willing to make their e-mail public to others in the co-operative.

The emerging digital culture has to this point been more conducive to systemic analysis than critical writing about individual art works. "Technofornia" is a step towards delineating objects, spaces, and sites worthy of consideration in their own right, rather than simply as manifestations or harbingers of things to come.

*Dr. Peter Lunenfeld, a member of graduate faculty of the Program in Communication & New Media Design at the Art Center College of Design, is the founder of mediawork: The Southern California New Media Working Group. He is the editor of The Digital Dialectic: New Essays on New Media (MIT Press, forthcoming).*