**HOTLIST**

# Eduardo Kac

Eduardo Kac has been exploring telepresence in his art since 1986. His work, documented at www.ekac.org, can be seen at the New York Center for Media Arts, New York (through Sept. 30), and the Yokohama Triennale, Japan (Sept. 2–Nov. 11).

TRADITIONALLY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS has involved the transmission, reception, and exchange of sound, images, and text. But in the last fifteen years it has acquired an altogether new dimension: telepresence, or the ability to produce action at a distance. Connecting robots to telecom networks enables those networks to act as vehicles for remote agency; artworks that use this technology explore the drama of distance, that is, they investigate the implications of being present in one space while simultaneously exerting perceptible physical influence in another.

Telepresence art preceded the development of the Web, but now it is coevolving with it, as exemplified by the work of artists such as Ken Goldberg (www.ken.goldberg.net) and Eric Paulos (www.eiu.org). The Internet offers telepresence both a broader context and a wider audience.

## Vectorial Elevation, 1999–2000
### www.alzado.net
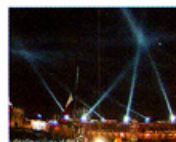


Realized on the Internet and in the sky above the Zócalo, or central square, in Mexico City, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's *Vectorial Elevation* enabled viewers to manipulate the light patterns created by eighteen strategically placed searchlights. The piece's monumental scale effectively bridged the public space of the town square and the public cyberspace of the Internet.

Kac, Eduardo. " Hotlist", *Artforum International*, September 2001.