Toward a Techno-Romanticism

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45 minute presentation
Using PowerPoint
Abstract:

Adapted from my undergraduate honors thesis project, this is a presentation on “Techno-Romanticism” and the inspiration process. Techno-Romanticism is the adaptation and application of the tenants of the 18th century Romantic movement to modern computer technology; it is also a systematic approach to inspiration. The inspiration process is a cyclical movement between the experiences of absence, dissonance, connection and harmony. Techno-Romanticism implies that a computer technology-based composition will support an inspired experience, and thus draw on and facilitate the fundamental experiences of the inspiration cycle.
Outline: (from PowerPoint presentation)

1. Toward a Techno-Romanticism
   • What is Techno-Romanticism?
   • Why Techno-Romanticism?
   • Techno-Romanticism Applied.
   • The Inspiration Cycle.

2. What is Techno-Romanticism?
   Tenants of the Romantic movement adapted and applied to use of computer technology….AND a systematic approach to inspiration.

3. What is Technology?
   Typically defined as the application of science to industry, or the systematization of an art.

4. Technology (Cont’d)
   Emphasis on:
   • Application of Science
   • Methodology
   • Utility
   • Materialism
   • Mechanics
   • Industry
   • And Computer Technology

5. What is Romanticism?
   Particular approach to art and life: Adapted from the 18th century Romantic movement.

6. Romanticism (Cont’d)
   Emphasis on:
   • Imagination
   • Intuition
   • Individuality & Identity Formation
   • Emotion
   • Spirit
   • Creative Freedom
   • Fresh Perspective & Wonder

7. Romanticism (Cont’d)
   “Romance is structured yearning. In the romantic moment, we gather and focus that yearning in order to connect with something outside ourselves…”
   Barbara Ascher, Dancing in the Dark
8. Techno-Romanticism is...
Combination of seemingly oppositional paradigms:

9. Techno-Romanticism (Cont’d)
Changed Focus:
- Technology becomes a medium for human expression
- Technology becomes a systematic approach to fostering inspiration

10. Techno-Romanticism (Cont’d)
“If the labours of men of science should ever create any material revolution, direct or indirect…the poet will sleep then no more than at present, but he will be ready to follow the steps of the man of science…he will be at his side, carrying sensation into the midst of the objects of the science itself.”
William Wordsworth, Preface to *Tintern Abbey*

11. Why Techno-Romanticism?
- Explore possibilities of technology as an artistic medium
- Realize technology’s potential to inspire
- Synthesize differing paradigms
- Technology and Art have always incorporated aspects of each other.
- Techno-Romanticism is a continuation of an ongoing process.

12. Techno-Romanticism Applied
Use computer technology as medium of INSPIRATION

13. What is Inspiration?
Central to Romantic Experience
“A breathing in or infusion of some idea, purpose, etc. into the mind; the suggestion, awakening, or creation of some feeling or impulse, esp. of an exalted kind”
Oxford English Dictionary

14. The Inspiration Cycle
Continuous movement between the experiences of Absence and Dissonance, Connection and Harmony

15. Inspiration Cycle (Cont’d)
Absence:
Experience of emptiness, lack of meaning, or purpose.
Dissonance:
A feeling of tension and separation from an other.

16. Inspiration Cycle (Cont’d)
Connection:
Experience of sudden insight and understanding.
Harmony:
Feeling of fulfillment and unification with an *other*.

17. Techno-Romanticism Applied (Cont’d)
- Interactive/Experiential
- Self-conscious
- Non-linear
- Appeals to multiple senses
- Viewer becomes Creator
- Fosters Individuality & Identity Formation
- Excites the Imagination
- Spurs Emotion
- Addresses the Spirit
- Promotes Fresh Perspective & Wonder

18. Techno-Romanticism Applied (Cont’d)
Ultimately:
- *Reproduces and exemplifies*
  experience of creative inspiration
- *Renews Romanticism* in new medium
- *Inspires* the audience!

19. “Are we to face a world devoid of romance because we don’t have the patience, courage, or attention span to sustain it?”
   
   Barbara Ascher, *Dancing In the Dark*

**Possible Discussion Questions:**

Can inspiration be systematized? Or is it really a systematic application of principles?
Can inspiration be purposely fostered?
Does this have applications for ID?

**Paper:** See e-mail attachment #2 *(This is a very large paper)*
*This presentation is adapted from the paper, and is not intended to cover the paper itself.*