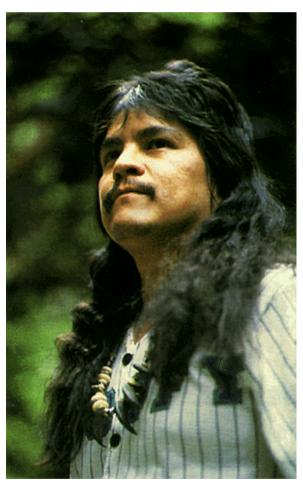# FLOATING TROUT SPACE - native art in cyberspace

23. Juli 1996   –   Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

Artist Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun interviewed by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. Edited by Susie Ramsay.

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Yuxweluptun created the first Native artwork in cyberspace. "Inherent Rights, Vision Rights" is a virtual reality piece that invites the user to experience a Native Indian perspective which includes a sacred ceremony in a traditional West-Coast long house. In the interview he describes the background of his spiritual high-tech art work.

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun is a painter and photographer from the Salish tribe living on the Nakazdli indian reservation in northern British Columbia, Canada. After getting a degree in painting in the early 80's from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver, his work has been "very concerned with the political structures of power, accountability to the environment, and ancestral lands." In 1992 he was invited to the Art and Virtual Environments project at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, where he created the first Native artwork in cyberspace: Inherent Rights, Vision Rights, is a virtual reality piece that invites the user to experience a Native Indian perspective which includes a sacred ceremony in a traditional West-Coast long house. The piece uses real-time 3D graphics, a stereoscopic display, virtual sound, and some intuitive navigation controls. "Inherent Rights, Vision Rights" has been shown in France, Germany, Spain, Canada and other countries.

RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER: *Most of your work in painting and photography is explicitly political and polemic. Your virtual reality piece "Inherent Rights, Vision Rights" is more subtle. Did the new medium influence your expression?*

LAWRENCE PAUL YUXWELUPTUN: Virtual reality gave me a chance to do something that I consider to be