

Visting artist with PLOrk

As Visiting Artist with [PLOrk](#), Van Stiefel made "Melancholy Science," a piece for electric guitar and nine laptops which explores representations of "control" and "freedom" given a soloist-orchestra model. An improvising soloist can turn "off" or "on" control over a voice (or voices) from the group as well as a virtual version of itself (since the soloist also performs--and is processed by--a laptop).

The group, nevertheless, through its sheer number and sonic presence, remains the determining factor--something like a chorus judging the actions of a flawed hero/leader.