

CURRICULUM VITAE

Professor William Seaman, Ph.D.

Computational Media, Arts and Cultures;

Co-director Emergence Lab

Professor, Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies; and Music; Duke University

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- 1999 Ph.D. — CAiiA, Centre for Advanced Inquiry in the Interactive Arts, University of Wales, Newport, Wales; Dissertation Title: Recombinant Poetics: Emergent Meaning as Examined and Explored Within a Specific Generative Virtual Environment
- 1985 Master of Science, Visual Studies
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1979 Bachelor of Arts, San Francisco Art institute
- 1976-77 Attended Rhode Island School of Design

Biosketch:

Dr. Seaman is a media artist and a computational media researcher. He is pioneer in the field of interactive media. In particular, his PhD (1999) explored emergent meaning production in a specific generative virtual environment, considered to be exploring AI at the time. This research focused on new forms of highly complex interactive generative computation and related articulated visualization. He began collaborating from the mid 1980s with media computer scientists / programmers, articulating new experimental forms of interactive and generative media production. He has collaborated on a number of Art/ Science publications and projects. In 2021 Seaman was awarded a lifetime achievement award from ACM SIGGRAPH for his pioneering work in “Recombinant Poetics / Recombinant Informatics / Neosentience”.

TEACHING

- 2008 - Present - Professor (Tenured), Art, Art History, & Visual Studies, Duke University
- 2014 - Present - Computational Media, Arts and Cultures (Media Arts and Sciences)
- 2002-08 - Professor, Founding Chair, Digital+Media Department and Graduate Program Director,
RISD, Providence, R.I.,

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2025 Neosentience and Insight Engine 2.0 — A multi-perspective approach to a holistic set of self-organizing research logics surrounding the production of synthetic sentience/sapience. Presented for the session Grammars, Taxonomies, and Logics for More-Than-Human-Ecologies in the conference Politics of The Machines / Synthetic Sentience, Perth, Australia
- Conference Presenter - SF Moma, Spaces of Computational Dialects; Architecture x Architecture, San Francisco, Cal.
- Bass Connections Award with Brenae Bent (CS) - Historical Shifts & Geographical Drifts: AI Embedding Exploration, Brinnae Bent and Seaman
- 2024 Languaging In/For Action – Building Bridges Between Disciplines Through Large language Models and Databases Exploring Multiple Relevant Areas of Research – Workshop - American Society For Cybernetics 60th Anniversary, Washington, DC
- Open World Recombinant Informatics, Presented at UNC-Duke Critical Games Symposium, Chapel Hill NC
- 2023 Invited Keynote – ICADE - With the theme of “The Emerging Roles”, the 2023 Tsinghua International Conference on Art & Design Education. The conference aims to chart the shifting contours of art and design education in the AI era. Beijing, China
- From Sentience to Neosentience, Touching One’s Fingers to An Ocean, Seaman Paper in Cybernetics and Human Knowing
- Published the book with World Scientific – Chaos, Information and The Future of Physics / The Seaman Rössler Dialogues, with Information Annotations by Burgin and Seaman
- Presented a major Print Retrospective – Selections from the Archive, Rubenstein Art Center, produced the Catalog with a graphic designer; with free download for students + a physical vesion from Lulu.
- MIT – ACT, Art Technology and Culture, Roundtable, Research Salon – Invited participant - Emergent Futures, Beyond The Centerbook
- Centerbook by Elizabeth Goldring and Ellen Sebring, Respondant, Book Launch – Held at Goethe Institute, Boston, Mass
- 2020 - 2025 - Book Review Editor for Cybernetics and Human Knowing
- 2020-21 - Graduate Program Director, Computational Media, Arts and Cultures (CMAC), Duke
- 2015-26 - Co-director, The Emergence Lab, Media Arts + Sciences (with John Supko, music),

MAJOR WORKS

- 2021 - Special Session Organizer for Theoretical and Foundational Problems (TFP) in Information Studies, conference: Neosentience, Biomimetics and the Insight Engine 2.0 (Invited by Mark Burgin - Summit of the International Society for the Study of Information - IS4SI)
- 2018 - Towards a Dynamic Heterarchical Ecology of Conversations (invited talk by von Foerster Society), Vienna. Austria
Published in Cybernetics and Human Knowing
- 2026 Large Format Prints – Seaman’s AI work “Wittgenstein’s Handles” in the Group Exhibition featuring artworks from chapter contributors to the Encyclopedia of New Media Art, Vol II. New Art Foundation in Reus, Spain. Forthcoming
- 2026 Digital Musical Release, Bandcamp. The Quiet Momentum of Sadness and Silence;
1) Construction Version by Bill Seaman with Susan Fancher providing Sax Libraries;
2) Abele Saxophone Quartet – Live Premier Version of The Quiet Momentum of Sadness and Silence – Engebretson Mix Recorded Sat. Nov, 22, 2025 by Eric Barganier.
- 2026 Bill Seaman Reconstructs Spirit Radio, July, 2026, Bandcamp, CD and Digital Version release, Developed from the initial album Distract’d By A Kaleidoscope Salseman (2024) Stephen Spera and Tamalyn Miller, Spirit Radio.
- 2025 Player_s –Generative Music Engine, Seaman(Concept) Brooks Frederickson (Programming)
Abele Saxophone Quartet (Susan Fancher, Rahsaan Barber, Heidi Radtke, Mark Engebretson) performing music by Bill Seaman and Terry Riley, as well as Duke University graduate composers Chris Williams and Erich Barganier, at Trinity Avenue, Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC.
The Watch Detail – A Frail Score of Suspended Timecode, 1990-2025 , Installation in group show, Duke
Maps of Reflection, Seaman and Monika Bugajny, CD and Digital Release, Elm 031
- 2024 Duet CD - Seaman with Tomo Date, Quiet Details
Invited to be included on the award-winning album – Tribute To Ryuichi Sakamoto - Micro Ambient Music, International, Digital Version release 2023, Physical release 2024
- 2023 Music– Released the Following Albums (See Bandcamp site for detail - <https://billseaman.bandcamp.com>); The Long Sky, Michael Grigoni and Bill Seaman, Longform Editions; The Clear Distance, Bill Seaman with Stephen Vitiello, Room 40, CD; The World Was Turning Before, Bill Seaman, Stephen Spera, and Tim Diagram, Laaps – Vinyl and CD
Formed a new Research Team for Neosentience - Insight Engine 2.0,. Emergence Lab (with Gregory Baker)
- 2022 The Engine of Many Senses, in the Group Show - Computational Poetics, Beall Center
curated by Higgins/Familian, Irvine, Cal.
Book - From the Architecture of Ideas: The Life and Work of Ranulph Glanville – Cybernetician, Edited by Seaman, Imprint Academic, UK
- 2021 Overview: Neosentience, Biomimetics, and Insight Engine 2.0 Presented at the Conference on Theoretical and Foundational Problems in Information Studies
Neosentience: Research Areas and Insight Engine 2.0 Foci, Presented at the Conference on Theoretical and Foundational Problems in Information Studies
- 2018 The Oper& with John Supko, Experimental Generative Opera, funded by Mary Duke Biddle Foundation & the Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts, Duke

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Spaces of Computational Dialects; Essay in Architecture x Architecture - a Dialectic, Oscar Riera Ojeda, Publisher
Encyclopedia Chapter, Interactive Art, Bloomsbury, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.2312/exw.20251064>.
- 2024 Composing Systems for Advancing Advancing, Enacting Cybernetics Online Journal
Neosentience Production and a Set of Conversations With ChatGPT Exploring Speculative Post_Apocalyptic Questions, Book Chapter in Post Apocalyptic Computing, Edited by Andrew Adamatzky
- 2023 Published a Paper with Mark Burgin (first Author) in Cybernetics and Human Knowing Journal Vol. 30 (2023) no. 1-2 pp. 101-131 – In a Search for Deeper Meaning: Navigating a Circle of Sense and Nonsense and In Turn Articulating Logical Varieties as Knowledge Illuminators.
- 2022 In the Circle of Sense and Nonsense: Through a Mathematical Model of Meaning, Mark Burgin / Bill Seaman, Leonardo, MIT Press, Volume 55, Number 1, 2022
Overview: Neosentience, Biomimetics, and Insight Engine 2.0. Proceedings 2022, 81, 89.<https://doi.org/10.3390/proceedings2022081089> & Neosentience: Research Areas and Insight Engine 2.0 Foci. Proceedings 2022, 81, 14. <https://doi.org/10.3390/proceedings2022081014>
From The Architecture of Ideas — The Life and Work of Ranulph Glanville, Cybernetician, Imprint Academic, UK
- 2020 Neosentience, long paper for Sentience - ISEA Online Proceedings 2020