

Technology is the essence of my work. Many of the materials used in my pieces are essentially technological or interface with technology as part of the work. More often than not I hear of an interesting circuit or chip that serves as the starting point for a piece.

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I have played with technology since elementary school. I first made a telegraph using wire, a nail, a broken saw blade and a battery in grade 6 and have been experimenting ever since. In my second year of university I was introduced to handbooks on basic circuitry written by Forrest M. Mims III. The circuits presented in these books have both provided inspiration for and served as the basis of many of my works.

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When I began working with technology in the 1970s I had excellent support, as I was one of only a dozen or so women working with technology in Canada. Consequently, I was invited to many shows featuring women and technology, and was a token women at others.

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For many years I have been interested in the relationship between machines and our sense of self. In a recent work I have been asking the participating audience the question "what do you think the mind is?" I asked this question in a 1996 work and have re-asked it in 2006. My sense is that as machines evolve there is a part of self which lies within them.

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I have based my work on the model of folk art; this means that the technology I use must be readily available, inexpensive and easily accessible. My work utilizes knowledge obtained from Forrest M. Mims III basic instructional books, which are written with the home hobbyist in mind.

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My "machines" are all handmade. Electronic components are soldered to create the "machine" for the work.

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