

## Lazy mode

Peter Flemming

May 24 to June 21, 2008

opening: Saturday, May 24, 2008, at 4 pm

Visit with the artist

Saturday, June 7, 2008, at 3 pm

the gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, from noon to 5 pm



Work in progress in the studio © P. Flemming, 2007

With *Lazy mode*, Peter Flemming will present four new or revised experimental works, involving combinations of electronic components and rudimentary motors, sensors and water pumps. Central to each work is a special type of relaxation oscillator, in which a capacitor slowly gathers and stores solar energy and diffuses it intermittently, as able. Flemming's machines alternate between periods of activity and rest, according to available daylight.

Thanks to the solar panels installed in the skylights at OBORO, and a network of relaxation oscillators, the works in *Lazy mode* may dawdle as they please, absorbing light and taking the time to tap enough energy to perform their actions.

In the main gallery, the large scale kinetic work entitled *Manual* is revisited, making an ironic demonstration of an entropic system in which order and chaos coexist. "The machine's task alternates between blatant anti-utility (depositing sand in piles around the gallery floor) and would-be utility (sweeping the sand back into a pile in the centre), thereby dramatically demonstrating that functionality and utility are not necessarily synonymous"<sup>1</sup>.

In its prototype and its more developed version, *Leak to Lower Lazy Levitating Load* comprises a barrel suspended from elastic cords, very slowly filling up with water from a dozen bottles also hanging from the ceiling. A space for contemplation opens, a barrel is filled with water and is emptied, and goes up and down, revealing the complex mechanisms of a system which explores the basic laws of physics.

In the small room, a dozen panes of glass set in rotary systems are arranged in a circle and emit sound vibrations: a *Stepper Motor Choir* is formed. Powered autonomously by solar engines, each of the panels accelerates and decelerates at an unpredictable rhythm, modulating the amplitude and pitch of the sounds, stretching the harmony of this mechanical choir.

**Peter Flemming** is an artist who makes machines. His work has been featured across North America and in Europe. He received an AOCA from the Ontario College of Art in 1997, and an MFA (Media Arts) from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2001. Flemming has taught at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. He currently resides in Montreal, where he teaches electronics at Concordia University in the Intermedia Cyberarts Program. He has held workshops in electronics and programming at artist-run centres around the world. <[www.peterflemming.ca](http://www.peterflemming.ca)>

1. From an essay by Norman White published in the exhibition catalogue for *Manual*, Koeffler Centre for the Arts, Toronto, 2006.