

Chromachron (1993, 15 min.)

Stuart Ramsden (animation), David Worrall (music).

Chromachron (literally "colour time") is a sound and image polymedia work that explores the synchronisation and structural integration of sound and colour events through a common duration scheme. The term 'polymedia' is used to indicate that the sound and image material is composed into a single structurally-integrated and interdependent poly-modal sense experience rather than the more usual layered multiple media ('multimedia') approach.

Chromachron is a static, meditative work, made in honour of French composer Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) who perceived colours when he heard certain chords, particularly those built from his Modes of Limited Transposition.

The work uses Messiaen's 2nd mode and is composed of phrases of fanning permutations of additive time structures called *interversions*. Each phrase of the work is 'signalled' by low gongs and by image "depth". The shape and colour of the images is also related to the pitches.

Chromachron is one of a number of polymedia works composed by Ramsden and Worrall during their period at the Australian Centre for the Arts and Technology (ACAT) at the Australian National University, which they founded in 1989. It was originally composed for realtime computer performance in their first Polymedia Event Space dome where the sound was mapped into sixteen independent audio channels.