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Cyber Bikers Hit the Road

On the week of July 11th, two riders on specially rigged motorcycles drove from New York to Orlando, Florida on an excursion they called the "Binary Biker". The road trip merged motorcycles, art and technology. Their destination? SIGGRAPH '98, the country's largest art and technology conference. Bruce Wands, Chair of the Department of Computer Arts for the School of Visual Arts in Brooklyn, New York and Rick Barry, Chair of the Department of Computer Graphics and Informative Media for The Pratt Institute in New York, along with several other motorcyclists and artists made the trek.

With video cameras mounted on the motorcycles, the bikers broadcast their trip on the Internet by uploading digital images and video to a Web site. Images were uploaded at the end of every day of the week long trip. According to Don Halm, of SVA (The School of Visual Arts), "The purpose of the project was to transmit culture and art to the world wide audience on the Internet. By traveling through the Amish Country, the Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina and Florida, the riders hoped to give web users a closer look at the country's cultural fabric".

The trip was dedicated to Bruce Wands' friend and SVA colleague, Dan Preda, who died in a motorcycle accident when he and Wands were on their way to the 1994 SIGGRAPH conference, also held in Orlando. Wands and Preda had planned on



creating a CD-ROM of their 1994 trip. This year's trip finalized the idea they had started four years ago. The event was sponsored by The School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute, New York City SIGGRAPH, Hitachi Home Electronics and Budget Rent-A-Car. For more information visit the site at <http://www.binary-biker.org>.

