



Posting on Facebook around ECITE by Thomas Kampe

'In 1986 I talked to this young man who introduced himself as a recreational contactor. And I thought "Recreational contactor! Oh no, that's what it's becoming." In just fifteen years it had gone from an art exploration and a performance thing to a recreation, a dating game—a sport of some sort. And I realized that I was being quite unreasonable, and that if I wanted it to be anything more than that—or if I wanted strongly for it to be something other than that—it was up to me to define what that might be.'
Steve Paxton <http://artforum.com/words/id=31419>



Comments on posting

[Jonathan Megaw](#) Yes I read this a few years back and came across pretty much exactly this excerpt online fairly recently but didn't have the presence of mind to bookmark it or post it during the debate prior to ECITE this year. to some extent it just goes to show that the same concerns have been around for quite a while now but it also reminds us that the essence of Ci lies beyond expanding the opportunities for recreation, 'interpersonal' recreation, or sport. Some folk do feel marginalised by appeals to validation by "Art" or "Performance", Exploration I think, remains the most significant word here but the Containers of Art and Performance do provide vessels for an essential degree of self awareness, for a clearly defined exploration and for peer review.

[Andrew Wass](#) "an art exploration and a performance thing" YES!

[Andrew Wass](#) " Art and Performance do provide vessels for an essential degree of self awareness, for a clearly defined exploration and for peer review" YES!

[Thomas Kampe](#) but what is art? the great thing is that a practice like CI has been instrumental in blurring these boundaries between the artistic and the recreational (read Shusterman's work on somaesthetics). we can't have the cake and eat it... the monster has been created and now it lives on imported by young white middle class people as cultural imperialism in Goa, Thailand, Bali, what next - Burma, Iran? yeehah....

[Andrew Wass](#) If you do something, it is art. If you do nothing, it is nature.

[Andrew Wass](#) We can have the cake and eat it, too. "Cultural imperialist" events that involve "young white middle class people" and a form of CI do not prevent me from using a form of CI in performance.

[Sybrig Dokter](#) CI in itself is not art just as ballet or graham technique is not 'art'

[Thomas Kampe](#) absolutely, performing, teaching through forms make meaning as cultural exchange (if that's what an artistic process is?)