

Archival Workstation for *Synchronous Objects for One Flat Thing, reproduced*

William Forsythe, Maria Palazzi, Norah Zuniga Shaw

About this workstation:

This interactive workstation presents an archival version of *Synchronous Objects for One Flat Thing, reproduced*, an interactive artwork originally published online and as a gallery installation in 2009. The version for galleries and museums traveled to over 50 exhibitions internationally and is being made available by SAPA to the public for the first time in over a decade. This gallery “workstation” does not include the interactive tools as they published on the open web (and now no longer accessible). It does however include the original interface and one of the most accessed and celebrated resources in the work, the object we call “The Dance,” which includes picture in picture views of the whole dance, an interactive full data score and voiceovers by William Forsythe that are not accessible anywhere outside the archives of Ohio State University and ZKM (Zentrum für Kunst und Medien) and now at SAPA.

About Synchronous Objects:

Originally published online in 2009, the interactive artwork *Synchronous Objects* re-imagines the expressive possibilities of information in dance.

Created by William Forsythe, Maria Palazzi, and Norah Zuniga Shaw with more than 30 contributing researchers at the Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design and The Forsythe Company, the project flows [from dance, to data, to objects](#). The dance is *One Flat Thing, reproduced* (2000) by William Forsythe. The data are translations of choreographic structures in the dance. The objects are visualizations, animations, and interactive software repurposing the choreographic information in the dance through the data.

From the beginning, the project aimed to appeal to a broad public from diverse fields including but not limited to dance. Forsythe explains, “*The project starts from the recognition that choreography is an organizational practice that employs fundamental creative strategies relevant to many other domains.*”

Synchronous Objects has attracted millions of unique visitors online as well as hundreds of thousands of repeat users from over 90 countries. Winning numerous awards and touring for over a decade, the project is featured in publications, curated exhibitions, and events across North America, Europe, and Asia most often serving as an educational resource for interdisciplinary research and creativity in diverse disciplines from dance to design, media arts, statistics, geography, architecture, and beyond. Called "wildly creative" by the [New York Times](#), the project's generation of data from the dance and use of interactive animation to visualize deep choreographic structures is credited by scholars as shifting the paradigm from documentation and preservation to one of interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and new expression. [Explore a list of selected resources](#) about Synchronous Objects.

After more than ten years online with thousands of ongoing users, the work became inaccessible December 31st, 2021 with the final demise of Flash (the software used to create the interactive interface). The interactive tools are no longer supported given changes in online security protocols. Our experience points to the ongoing problem of market driven obsolescence of necessary software and file formats for artistic and scholarly digital projects. This workstation is the most complete version currently available and archival resources can be accessed online at synchronousobjects.osu.edu.