

Leo Villareal

Artist; Pioneer in the use of LEDs and Computer-Driven Imagery

“Animating Light”

April 9, 2014; 4:00 p.m.

Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall

1 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT

Reception to follow

Leo Villareal is a pioneering light sculptor recognized internationally for his site-specific architectural installations and trailblazing innovations with LED lights and computer-driven imagery. His artworks orchestrate complex, rhythmic patterns of movement and light in spectacular, bold sequences.

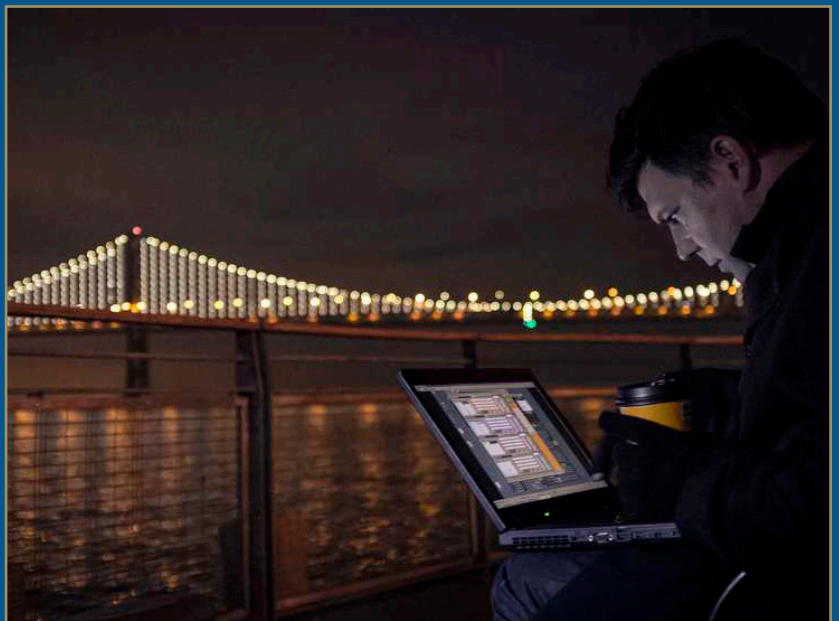
In 1997, Villareal began devising complex light sculptures that combined strobe lights, light bulbs, and most recently, LED nodes, all activated by his own custom-made software that controls the lights while allowing for an element of chance. Simple visual elements move, change, and interact, ultimately growing into complex, dynamic forms that excite the human compulsion to recognize patterns and make meaning. The effect is cumulative and exhilarating.

The distinction of Villareal’s work lies in its sequencing. Inspired by mathematician John Conway’s work with

cellular automata and the Game of Life, Villareal’s art uses basic elements such as pixels and binary code to respond to the ingenuity and imagination that underlies technological innovation. The results, rich with emergent behavior and consistent beauty, can be appreciated by lovers of both the arts and sciences—and by engineers tempted to analyze the artist’s algorithms.

Villareal received a BA in sculpture from Yale University in 1990. In addition to *The Bay Lights* (opposite), his many installations include *Stars* at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, *Multiverse* in the walkway connecting the East and West Buildings at the National Gallery of Art, and *Hive* at the Bleecker Street subway station in Manhattan. His sculptures are also in the permanent collections of many museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum in Kagawa, Japan.

The Bay Lights is the world’s largest LED light sculpture, 1.8 miles wide and 500 feet high. Inspired by the Bay Bridge’s 75th Anniversary, its 25,000 white LED lights are individually programmed by Villareal to create a never-repeating, dazzling display across the Bay Bridge West Span through March 2015.



The lectureship is named in honor of Victor M. Tyler, B.A. '51 and M.E. '58, founder of Concord Computing Corporation and a leader in the development of electronic commerce technologies. His entrepreneurial acumen has provided financial institutions nationwide with ATM processing, debit card processing, access to a national debit network, and deposit risk management.