

# Live Feed: Intermedia Improvisation with Artificial Intelligence—A Documentary Short Film

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**Daniel Maldonado, filmmaker**

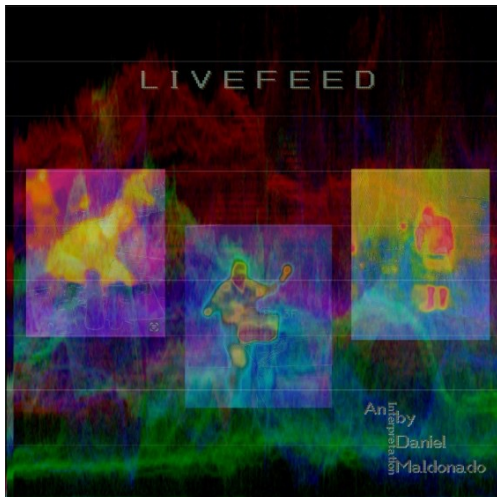
*Gashouse Films, New York, New York, USA*

**Joe Hertenstein, percussionist**

*New York, New York, USA*

**April Zanne Johnson, visual artist**

*Newton, New Jersey, USA*



## **Abstract**

This short film documents—and is an example of—concepts of intermedia performance embracing technology. Three artists and one artificial intelligence came together in a happening event: Percussionist Joe Hertenstein performed on found instruments; visual artist

April Zanne Johnson created a painting live during the day-long performance, responding synaesthetically to what was played; a piano-playing algorithm created by Jeff Morris was driven by the motion it saw during the performance; Jeff Morris also captured the sounds of the piano and percussion live and transformed them into his own musical part in the mix. This all added to what April heard, influencing her painting, which in turn influenced what the piano algorithm saw and responded to musically, creating a tangled, intermedia feedback loop, in which multiple modes of expression and experience were tangled inextricably: Removing one would make the whole fall apart. The film itself exemplifies a mindset that is not only aware of the content presented but also the layers of technology and intervening agents along the way, encouraging viewers to live more artfully, mindful of the artifacts and impacts of technology in everyday life.