

FirstWorks is on art's cutting edge

■ Exhibit of new electronic media and a performance by Heather Henson's puppets and actors take place today.

PROVIDENCE — Two events that are part of the seventh annual FirstWorks Festival are under way today.

■ "Pairings: two is better than one" is the theme for Pixilerations [v.7], 11 days of exhibitions and performances using new media including interactive electronics, Web technology and the moving image.

■ "Panther and Crane: A Mythic Journey Through Our Earth's Waterways," a performance by Heather Henson and a troupe of 11, is today at 4 p.m. in the RISD Auditorium, 17 Canal St.

FirstWorks, which continues through Nov. 13, is a celebration of theater, dance, music, new media and visual arts.

For a full festival schedule including premieres, special events, artist residencies and free exhibits, visit *firstworks.org*.

■ In "Panther and Crane," Henson uses soaring puppets, beautiful projections and fluid movement as she carries forward the legacy of her father Jim Henson.

She and her troupe animate the world of migrating cranes, pacing panthers and wading alligators — and portray the challenges threatening their way of life.

Tickets start at \$5 for children, \$22 and \$16 for adults, and are on sale at (401) 621-6123 or *ArtTixRi.com*.

■ The Pixilerations festival gathers groundbreaking works from the liveliest minds in digital media, music and art and showcases them now through Oct. 10 at venues throughout the state.

Pixilerations offers an opportunity to view artwork that incorporates technology, interactive games, robotics, and virtual environments.

■ At RISD's Sol Koffler Gallery, 169 Weybosset St., (open daily, noon to 8 p.m.) visitors will see a number of works, including the impressive multi-part installation of Murray and Megan McMillan, which incorporates large-scale lilies made with yellow industrial plastic.

They will also discover the work of Joshua Pablo Rosenstock and the interactive pieces of Andrew Lloyd Goodman and Emma Hogarth, all exploring issues regarding social control and loss of privacy in contemporary society.

■ FirstWorks Gallery, 65 Eddy St., (open Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 8 p.m.) presents interactive works that engage the viewers and their relationship to urban space.

For example, the longer a viewer visits Jennifer Jacobs's "Glasshouse," the more their recorded presence is reflected in it.

Taiwanese artists Dar-Kuen Wu allows viewers to lose their way in a foreign city.

A large projection by Amanda Long immerses viewers in a reflection of how we perceive a moving image.

■ Machines With Magnets, 400 Main St, Pawtucket, (open Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 8 p.m. and by appointment) hosts the premiere of "Callspace," a digital arts installation that gives voice to

forgotten places by using modified cell phone technology to network ambient sound from unpopulated Rhode Island locations.

The work is created by REDUX, Mark Cetilia and Joe Cantrell, with support from Creative Capital.

More than 350 local, national and international artists applied to be part of the Pixilerations festival, which was curated by leading experts in the field.

Pixilerations is co-sponsored by the Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, and produced by FirstWorks.

■ On Tuesday at 9:30 p.m., Pixilerated: Video Art, hosted by the Magic Lantern Cinema, will take place at Cable Car Cinema, 204 South Main St. Works by a range of artists, including "Hesitation" by James George and "The Visible Man" by Jacopo Jenna, will be screened.

■ On Thursday at 9 p.m., Firehouse 13, located at 41 Central St., will host DJ innovation and experimental electronics by a number of inventive performers.

Admission is free at both of these events.

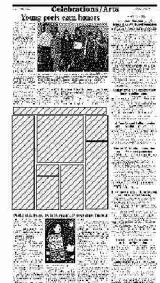




Photo courtesy of [FirstWorks](#)

Heather Henson, daughter of puppet master Jim Henson, combines live actors and puppets in today's performance of 'Panther and Crane.'