

## Exhibition Information

# Eddo Stern SMALL WARS

Sat 16 July - Sun 4 September 2016

**DCA**  
Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate  
Dundee DD1 4DY  
01382 909900  
Scottish Charity No. SC026631

Open daily 11:00-18:00  
Open late Thu 20:00  
Admission free  
[www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk)

# INTRODUCTION

## EDDO STERN: SMALL WARS

For summer 2016 DCA is delighted to present *CD-ROMS* and *Small Wars*, two exhibitions in partnership with Abertay University exploring the cultural impact of computer games, programmed and co-curated with Dr William Huber, Head of the Centre for Excellence in Game Education.

The exhibitions coincide with Abertay University's hosting of the first joint International Conference of DiGRA and FDG 2016, from Mon 1 to Sun 6 August.

Eddo Stern's work explores the uneasy and unconscious connections between physical existence and electronic simulation. He works with a variety of media, including computer software and hardware, game design, live performance, digital video and kinetic sculpture. Through his work, Stern advocates independent game development and the potential of game design as a medium for artistic expression and cultural impact.

Born in 1972, Stern lives and works in Los Angeles. He studied Electronic Media and Art at the University of California at Santa Cruz and an MFA at the California Institute for the Arts. Solo exhibitions of his work include Postmasters Gallery, New York; Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff; FACT, Liverpool and The Kitchen, New York. He has participated in festivals and group exhibitions worldwide and recently undertook a residency at Hospitalfield Arts, Arbroath, in preparation for this exhibition.

Further information:

[www.dca.org.uk/whats-on/event/eddo-stern](http://www.dca.org.uk/whats-on/event/eddo-stern)

[www.eddostern.com](http://www.eddostern.com)

[www.postmastersart.com](http://www.postmastersart.com)

## Best Flamewar Ever

Digital video; 2007

Voice acting: Levia Stern (as Leegattenby), Jessica Hutchins (as Squire Rexz)

*Best Flamewar Ever* recreates an online flame war between online personas 'King of Bards' and 'Squire Rexz', concerning degrees of expertise around the computer fantasy game *Everquest*. "Their discussion of the game rapidly morphs in to an excuse to trade insults, revealing the masculinity-obsessed aggression lurking behind even such seemingly innocent flights of fancy"- Zahra Jumabhoy, Artforum.

## 1000 Plateaus

Wood, paint, coins; 2016

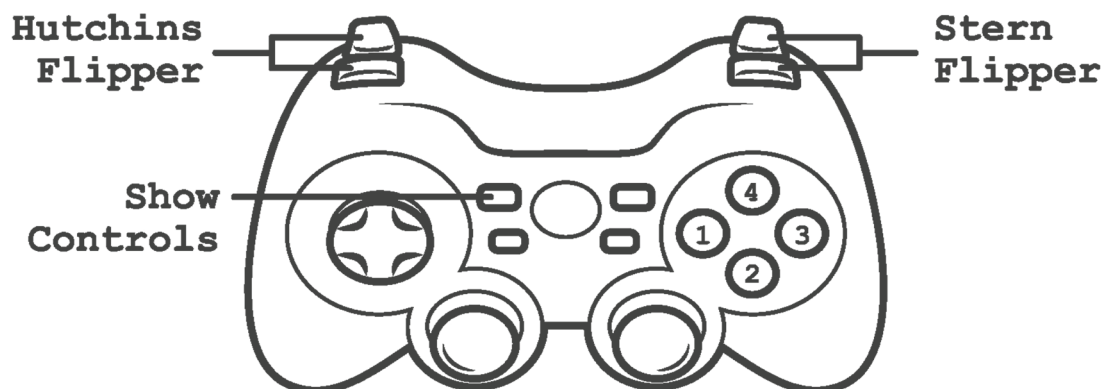
Visitors can test their skills by flipping coins into the holes in the eight painted coins (1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2). The holes decrease in size as the value of the currency increases. This new game is inspired by fairgrounds and carnivals as well as wishing wells. Throughout his career, Stern has produced non-digital games for visitors to interact with alongside his computer-driven games.

## GoldenStern

Computer game; 2014

Eddo Stern and Jon Haddock (thanks to David Mershon and Alex Rickett)

*Goldenstern* is a pachinko-pinball game played amidst the the Stern-Hutchins-Atlas-Lynch-Lanister family trees. Included are portraits painted by Jon Haddock of Helman Stern, Levia (Atlas) Stern, Eddo Stern, Jonathan Hutchins, Mary (Lynch) Hutchins, Jessica Hutchins, Jem Stern, Tywin Lannister and Cersei Lannister. The gameplay involves guiding gold coins towards Jem Stern using the heads and noses of the older family members. *Goldenstern* is part of a series of short-form computer games by the artist loosely bound by interpretations of portraiture in game form. The goal is to catch the coins on Jem's nose located at the base of the family tree.



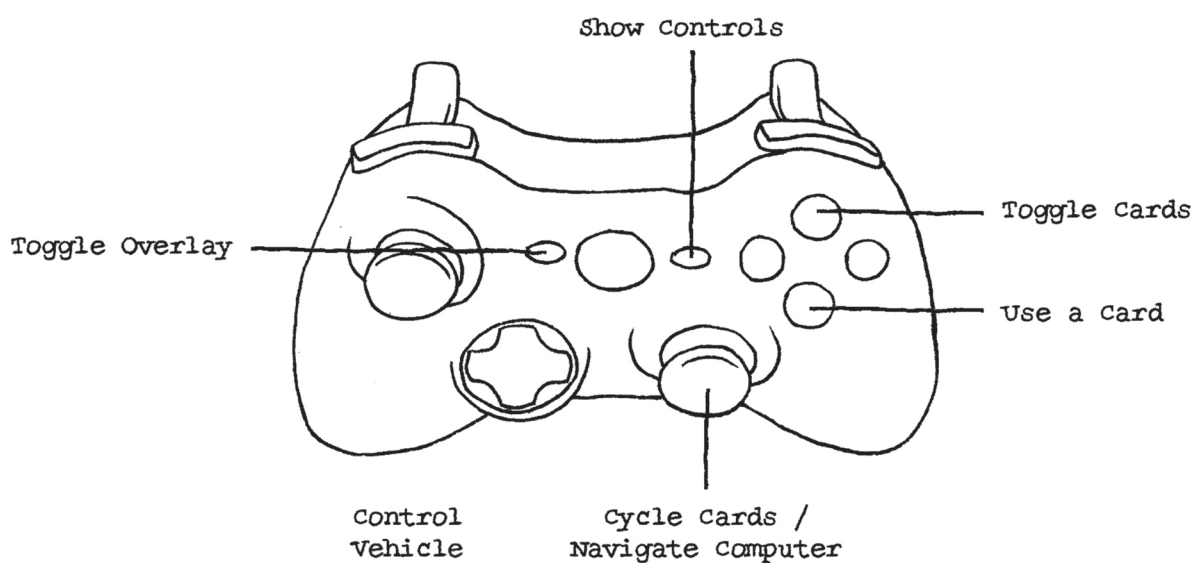
## VIETNAM ROMANCE



### Congrats it's all yours - Vietnam Romance prologue

Computer game, painted wood, screen; 2016

The prologue is housed inside an enormous computer monitor. The game is set in the Mojave desert where prospectors bid online for a trip to Vietnam and the chance to acquire a rare artefact.



## Best of Nam

5m looped animation on monitors, painted wood; 2016

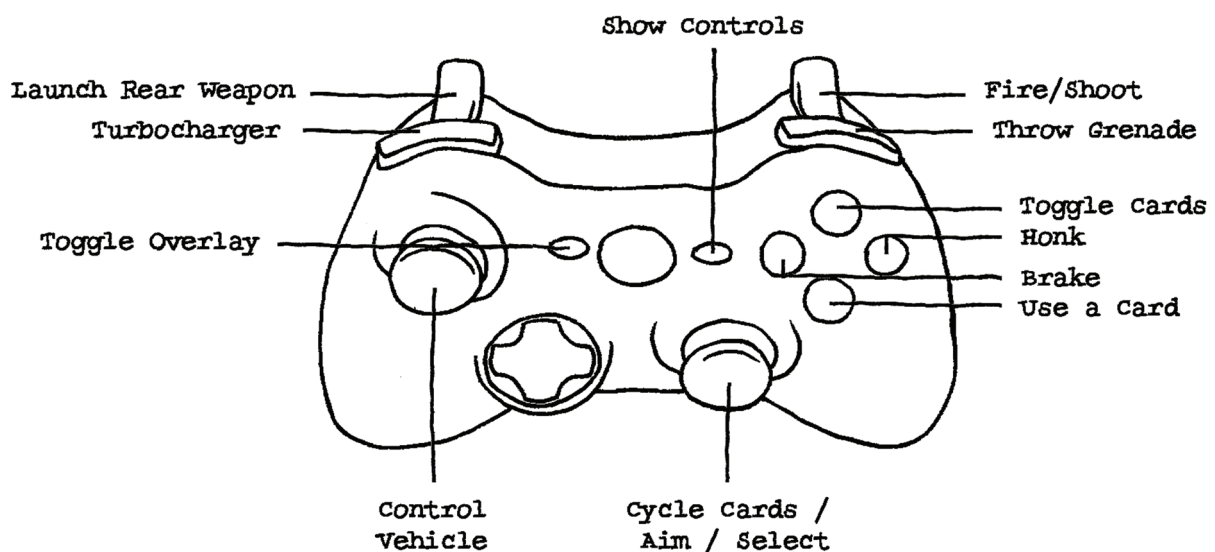
Stern has worked with DCA's installation team to build a gigantic, hand-painted, audio cassette that houses an animation of the tape spooling round which can be viewed on both faces of the cassette. The soundtrack features a muzak version of *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall* by Bob Dylan, a song often associated with Vietnam movies, counter-culture and the anti-war movement.

## Vietnam Romance

Computer game with Steven Amrhein, Nick Crockett, Jessica Hutchins and Lucas Near-Verbrugge; 2015

For *Small Wars*, Stern presents a monumental installation of his celebrated *Vietnam Romance*. This work recreates and interrogates the fictionalised history of the Vietnam War and its culturally commodified remains through a mash-up of cultural artefacts drawn primarily from Hollywood film culture, comic books, popular music and collectable war memorabilia. "If you hated the War but loved the Movies, you'll love this game" - Eddo Stern.

*Vietnam Romance* has been generously supported by the Beall Center for Art And Technology through an Andy Warhol Foundation grant, and by The University of California Institute for Research in the Arts and by the UCLA Council On Research.



## TALKS AND EVENTS

Book your place on 01382 909 900.  
For more information visit  
[www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk)

### **Exhibition Introduction: Small Wars & CD-ROMS**

Fri 15 July, 18:30

Galleries. Free, but please book in advance.

An opportunity to hear from exhibiting artist, Eddo Stern, alongside Graham Domke, Exhibitions Curator at DCA and Dr William Huber, Head of Centre for Excellence in Game Education at Abertay University, as they discuss the work on show in the galleries.

### **Gallery talk:**

#### **Emilie Reed aka NET.GAL**

Thu 18 August, 19:00

Galleries

Join Emilie Reed, aka net.gal, for a talk in the gallery. In between her game making and playing, Emilie is a PhD student focusing on New Media and Videogames. She is also co-curator of Blank Arcade at Abertay University. Emilie lives in Dundee, has written on exhibiting artist Theresa Duncan and writes extensively about art, technology, games, museums, and the spaces where they end up intersecting.

### **Senior Citizen Kane Tour and Workshop**

Tue 23 August, 10:30-12.30

Galleries. Free, but please book in advance.

This event is designed for our visitors aged 60 and over. Explore the exhibition with one of our friendly

Gallery Assistants, share your thoughts, chat over a cup of tea and get hands-on with a creative design activity based on the games and imagery in the galleries.

### **(((echo)))**

Thu 01 September, 19:00

Galleries. Free, drop in.

Come along and contribute to this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists. Please email [exhibitions@dca.org.uk](mailto:exhibitions@dca.org.uk) by Fri 19 August if you are interested in proposing a response to either or both of the Theresa Duncan or Eddo Stern exhibitions.

### **Drop in and Play**

Sat 3 September, 13:00-16:00

Level 4. Free, drop in.

We've teamed up with Abertay University to offer another of our popular Drop in and Play gaming events - pop in on the final weekend of *Small Wars* and *CD-ROMS* and be among the first to try a range of brand new games before they're widely available. The designers will be on hand who you can have a chat with and let them know what you think, as will local games company Future Fossil to help you explore the art of games in depth. All games will be suitable for ages 10+.

If you're a games designer with a game you'd like to show at Drop in and Play, we're accepting submissions until Fri 29 July. Have a look on our website for details on how to submit.

## RELATED SCREENING

### **WarGames**

Sat 03 September, 16:00  
Cinema

We've selected early 80s sci-fi thriller *WarGames* to coincide with our exhibitions *Small Wars* & *CD-ROMS*.

Definitely of its time, *WarGames* remains one of the most fun films about computer hackers ever made. Blending an unease around the arms race with concerns around new technology, the film is surprisingly prescient and still a tense and gripping watch. Matthew Broderick is smart-beyond his years teenager David Lightman who accidentally hacks into the Pentagon and starts playing what he thinks is a computer game called Global Thermonuclear War. Turns out, the machine he's competing against has complete control of the USA's nuclear arsenal, and David's actions are unwittingly pushing the world to the brink of war. Oops!

Broderick (terrific in only his second screen role) is joined by brat-pack regular Ally Sheedy as his love interest and the wonderful Dabney Coleman as the grumpy defence specialist trying to avert the impending nuclear holocaust. Director John Badham laces the suspense with just the right amount of invigorating humour, keeping the preachy sentiment to a minimum. Hugely enjoyable and worryingly thought-provoking, this cautionary tale has lost none of its edge.

Dir: John Badham / USA / 1983 /  
1h54m / PG

## FOR YOUNGER VISITORS AND FAMILIES

### **Family Art Lab: Handmade Games**

Sat 27 August, 13:00 - 15:00  
Activity Room. Free, but please book in advance. Suitable for ages 5+. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join local games designers from Space Budgie to explore the nature of the games in the gallery. Create your own setting and designs using watercolour and acrylic paint, collaging foregrounds, background, points of view and story texts then scan them in to take away and use at home.

### **Art Cart**

Sat 16 July, Sat 6 August  
and Sat 20 August  
13:00 - 15:00  
Level 4. Free, drop in.

Come and visit our Art Cart where you can play with images and ideas from the exhibition. You can design a pixelated character badge and create a game story page with 'pop-up' and 'lift the flap' interactions inspired by Theresa Duncan's CD-ROMS.

### **Activity Room**

Open daily unless being used for a workshop. Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a comfy, imaginative space for younger visitors and families inspired by the work of Bruno Munari. Try out one of our DIY activities, browse our children's art library and make connections with the exhibition.

## JUST ASK

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with your questions.

Keep up to date with the very latest from DCA by visiting [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk) or by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Tweet us your thoughts on the exhibition using **#helloDCA**.

## NEXT EXHIBITION

### Katy Dove

Sat 17 September - Sun 20 November

A memorial exhibition of drawings, collages, paintings, prints and animations by the much-loved artist Katy Dove (1970 – 2015). Katy created meditative spaces through her combinations of sound and image, and contemplative responses to colour and rhythm.

Katy studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee in the 1990s and worked at DCA when it first opened. She participated in DCA's exhibitions programme and worked with the Print Studio to produce a series of prints.

The exhibition is programmed to coincide with this year's Discovery Film Festival.