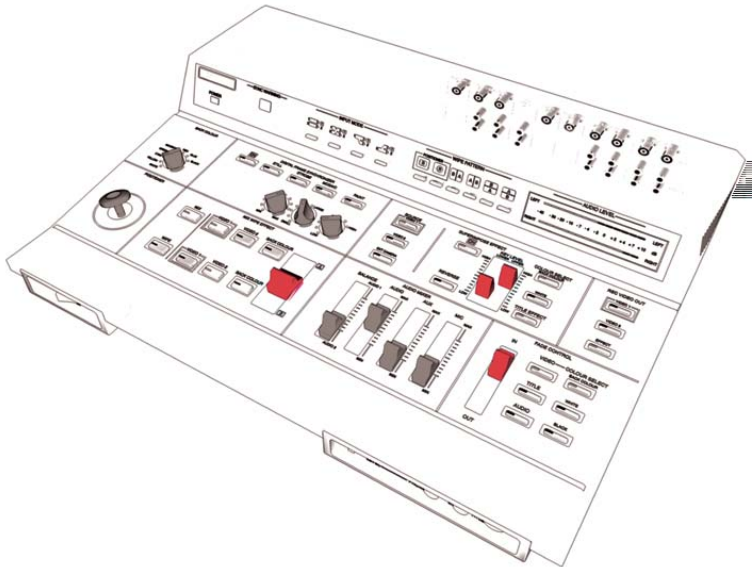


# MXZEHN

25 MASTERPIECES PER SECOND



## **Live Visuals**

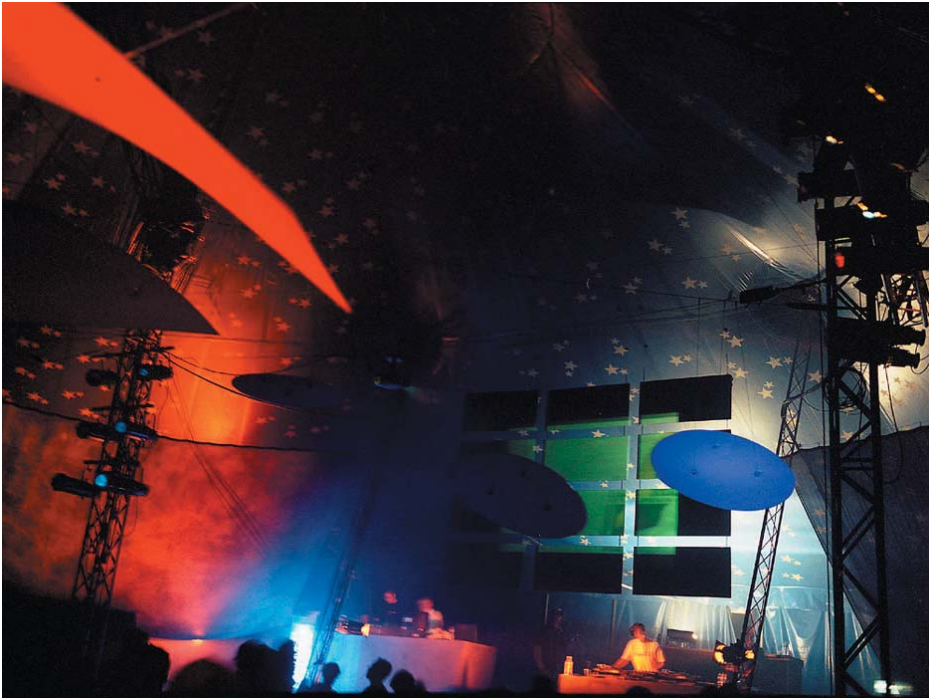
Live generated or mixed visuals have become an important tool part of event culture. The rapid development of display technology will accelerate this process. Transmission or Advertising are the one thing, the other are artistic performances that became an original art form in the last decade. The generated Images and Animations are artistic expressions of the Video Artist, the images are no longer serving they are an attraction on their own right.

## **MXZEHN**

MXZEHN considers itself as a visual label. The different Artists and Formations that are represented by MXZEHN share a commune vision of live visuals as the result of more than 5 years of experience in live visuals and research. A very high artistic quality and the almost complete abstractness of the procedurally generated imagery beyond the usual aesthetics of advertising and music videos are characteristic for MXZEHN artists. The animations are generated in the same moment as they are perceived. The image is picturing nothing – except itself. It is part of a process that is being formed by the artist and watched by the audience. It is like a horserace, a dogfight, an atlantics crossing, It is live. The work of MXZEHN is similar to jazz. Predefined arrangements (for MXZEHN the setup – the way the instruments are wired up with each other) serve as a base for spontaneous improvisations of the performer. Like with a musical instrument the image becomes static when the performer stops playing. To gain that maximum performability MXZEHN plays mainly on video hardware. Cameras, different (vintage) video mixers, color-correctors, monitors and switches and as lead-instrument the Panasonic WJ-MX-10. The MX-10 serves as basic graphics generator - not only for live performances but also for studio productions. The studio tracks are used ascompositing sources for short films and visual DVD albums.

## **25 Masterpieces per Second**

The images are never repeating. There are no loops, no footage from DVD players or computers, except sometimes to add something to the live generated image. It's hard to explain the difference here, but you can feel it immediately in a live situation. Loop and footage based VJing often focuses on mechanically syncing predefined footage to the beat. MXZEHN VJs perform the image every moment of the show



together with and parallel to the music. That's why MXZEHN visuals can fit to every style of music. The Images are not slave to the music; they open up a dialog with the music in harmony or in contrast. Suddenly there's space for virtuosity, method or madness, for the immediate artistic expression that has been exclusive to music for so long. Narrative structure, classic storytelling is not the main focus of MXZEHN. The observed process is unique - it has and is its own story.

### **Space / Scenography**

Other than film or TV which qualify as images in classical sense by being framed, videoprojections can merge with space, light and objects. They are hybrids of light and film and not necessarily the carrier has to be a screen. MXZEHN visuals are generated procedural and can thus fit in virtually any situation. A close cooperation on the scenography is nevertheless necessary for optimum results.

## Why MXZEHN ?

The Panasonic WJ MX-10 is one of the ancestors of a row of very popular video mixers. Technologically outdated, of no use for nowadays hobby filmers it can be found sometimes with VJs. With classic Design, hard-edged, black, with aggressive cooling ribs he looks like a crossing between Darth Vader and a Steinway (and some K.I.T.T.). As if predicted by the design this old, little marriage video mixer turns into a fury of bizarre patterns and forms, flashes and jitters, when you take him out of sync. Mr.Jekyll and Mr.Hyde. Fighting, like a wild mustang but once you tame him you get a great real time graphic generator. The imagery that can be generated this way has a fascinating video aesthetic, very active in between the fields. The performer has control over the signal but everything a man can get out of this machine to declare it as beauty and as image has been placed there. Not by any human will, every Panasonic technician would get a heart attack seeing one of our videos.

This potential beauty, that lays like a second nature within the machine is what we want to unveil? We are the farmers that cultivate that land.

So what is new about the MXZEHN attitude? What is smart about using this very old, outdated technology in a time, where computers became powerful visual realtime engines, and a huge number of software products enables visual artists to create digital artwork in previously unseen quality? MXZEHN is not ignoring state of the art technology. We use it for different projects, but when it comes down to the true meaning of live video, when it comes down to the art of playing the image, there is a unity of image, meaning, machine and object that never can be reached by a software solution.

The MX-10 allows us to focus on the Art, on the live character of our performances. We think that VJing should not be the imitation of cinema with different means. Live video has totally different characteristics. It has to show the previously unseen, it is not telling a story by the representations of human action or interaction with objects. Live video has to be selfreflective. We don't use the machine as a tool, a slave to visualize our ideas but as a partner and a friend. MXZEHN imagery has the beauty of nature photography. The beauty lies within the nature, and it is the artists vision and action that channels this beauty into perceptibility.

\* The MXZEHN Orchestra won the 2005 VJ Contest at the Videofestival Bochum

### **MXZEHN VJ Experience : 34TR & OPTOYZ**

Since 1997 Bahadır Hamdemir and Stefan Kraus performed – until 2002 as genericPreset - since 2004 as MXZEHN on events and festivals across Europe. Each set is different but characteristic. The visuals are 100% live and there's no other VJ team that performs so physical and artistic to turn simple video mixers to exploding visual organs. No boring “button shifting”- 34 and OPTOYZ are 100% rock's that roll.



### **Seltsam, Strahler und 34 Andere**

This wonderful as simple as beautiful audiovisual live performance is a fresh fruit of the long term collaboration with electronic duo Seltsam& Strahler. The visuals by 34 are created with nothing but a Panasonic WJ MX-10. Very slow and patient, abstract cascades of sound and image. Constructed and deconstructed in metamorphosis.



### **Das MXZEHN Orchester**

The award winning\* MXZEHN Orchestra is the flagship of MXZEHN. Three VJs and 3 Musicians turn every stage in a flashing virtual space. Drums, Acoustic Bass, Electric Guitar and 3 Panasonic WJ-MX10. Dirty underground jazz combines with the archaic screams of the MXZEHN visuals – an immersive experience. Four VJs with only their black mixers on steel recks. In the back of the stage three big screens as tryptichon. The screens show the signals of the three VJs, that are connected with each other. The signal, created by the first in the row is going through all three mixers. First ones output is second ones input and so on. Each mixer is being performed and connects with one of the screens. This was the screens show - in chronological order - the way of the signal through the system, meaning: through the hands of the artists, that shape the signal.





**Color:**

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<http://www.mxzehn.de/mx>

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<http://www.mxwendler.de>

**Contact**

Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Kraus  
Humboldtstr.9  
D-99423 Weimar

++49 179 526 5105

[info@mxzehn.de](mailto:info@mxzehn.de)  
<http://www.mxzehn.de>