

Team Project 3

## Running Through the Fire



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Image Completed 24 April 2011

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this assignment was to capture an interesting image of fluid dynamics accurately portraying a fluid dynamics phenomenon. The artist set out to create the dynamics of technological advancement by filming our most primitive achievement, fire, with one of our most “advanced” technological achievements, fire. As with any artistic endeavor, a meaning is supposed to be captured and presented to the viewer for interpretation.

## FLUID DYNAMICS

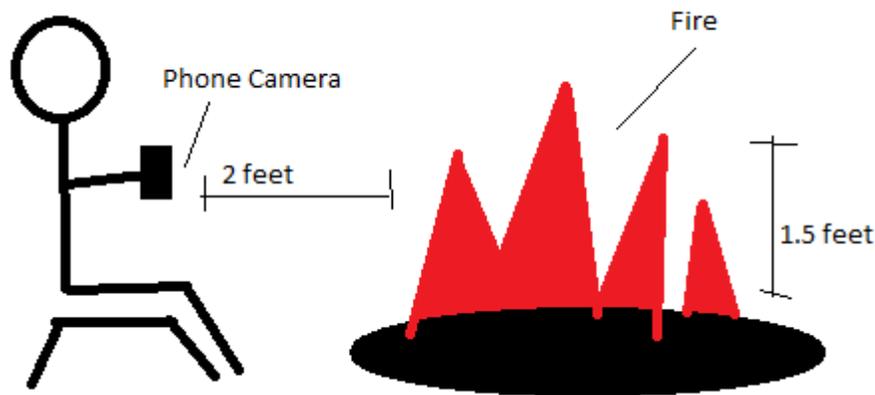
“The hydrocarbon molecules of the wood fibers combine with oxygen to produce water vapor. The carbon atoms combine with the oxygen to form carbon monoxide and eventually carbon dioxide”<sup>1</sup>.

## VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUE USED

The camera of an Android cell phone was used. This method of filming is not sophisticated enough to provide the user with any data outside of when the shot was taken and how long the video lasts. The idea of using a cell phone was inspired by the film *Immobilité*, the first feature-length film shot entirely with a cell phone. This method aims to come to terms with our modern methods of media sharing that is dominated by technology such as cellular devices and Youtube-type video sharing programs. That is why the still shot on the cover of this video includes the Youtube elements at the bottom of the screen.

## METHODS USED

A fire was started in a fire pit. The fire rose to approximately a foot and a half at its greatest height. The image was taken at night, and the only light source was from the fire itself. In order to maintain the premise of amateur-style cell phone photography, the camera was held directly by the artist. The artist was approximately two feet in front of the flames. See diagram below for details.



## ARTISTIC ELEMENTS

The artist set out to capture an image of one of our most primitive inventions, fire, with one of our most technologically advanced inventions, the cell phone. The effect is a grainy poor picture quality. The song “revolution” was chosen to play in the background. The practical effect of using this song was for the lyrics “Running through the fire, Running through the flame,” which naturally accompanies a video of fire well. However, lines throughout the song reinforce the impression the artist was trying to make with his video; “Don’t you wonder when it’s all gonna stop? Sometimes I wonder how do we sleep, serving the dodgy companies we keep... Pay off those losers we elect to lead... Enslaving the very clothes upon my back.” The lyrics themselves serve to counter the premise of laissez-faire economics, and the technology that is a symptom of it.

The three different effects in the video serve to track the progress of civilization. The first section is unaltered, and then it moves to black and white. This is intended to show where we were, an older mode of representation to reflect an older mode of living. From there it flashes to edge-detection which creates a futuristic look upon a stark white background. This is to show the present, where we are. Then the video returns to the unaltered film, suggesting that we haven’t really gone that far, if we have moved at all.

## SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> "Fire Physics." *Public Services - Social, Religious, Scientific, Products, Environment*. Web. 04 May 2011. <<http://mb-soft.com/juca/print/317.html>>.