

Bruce Sterling's Long Now talk: what it means to perform futurism



Bruce Sterling's [two-hour talk/Q&A at The Interval](#), a club for members of the Long Now foundation, may seem like a daunting load for a holiday week, but honestly, it's worth every minute.

Sterling delves into the true meaning of "futurism," as a performative, social act, embedded in a time and place and operating on one of several layers -- the [pace-layers defined by Stewart Brand](#), which are: "Fashion/art, Commerce, Infrastructure, Governance, Culture and Nature.

Sterling's performance style -- droll, dry, with some Groucho Marx mixed in with a kind of tragic poetry -- is perfectly suited to this material. Sterling is actually at his best when talking about why he does the things he does -- even better than he is when he's actually doing it. It's in these meta-talks that you get some insight into the gaps and out-of-focus areas where Sterling is really digging in, trying to find some new territory -- as opposed to when he's performing, and describing the territory he's already thoroughly mapped.

In theory, this is [going to appear on the Interval's podcast](#) and I think that might be the best way to experience it -- it's great audio for thinking about while digesting your Christmas meals and tidying up the wrapping paper.

(via [Beyond the Beyond](#))

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