

*Usina Mekanica by Fuse Ensemble*  
*Project Abstract*

*Usina Mekanica (UM)*, is a conceptual new music/new media happening involving live musicians, kinetic objects and video generated in real time. *UM* is performed by Fuse Ensemble in collaboration with Workingman Collective.

*UM* uses live-action wind-up toys -- their sound and images manipulated and reintegrated into the performance space via real-time video and audio to propose a psychological landscape for the audience. *UM* is a multilayer performance that uses as source material the possible relations of man and machine while playing on childhood memories to trigger notions of nursery rhymes and the emotions provoked by the industrialized clanking of the metal wind up machines.

The soundscape created by live musicians and electronics evokes not a single memory but a mental landscape -- a context of the meanings held within childhood memories, real or invented. The musicians of Fuse interact with the toys and the tactile sounds they create while the Toymaster directs. These wind-up machines move about on an elaborate kinetic table created by the Workingman Collective. The table serves as a known communal space that bridges the two layers of invented psychological landscape and the mechanical devices themselves and follows the mechanical theme by being able to move on its own – even becoming an instrument itself at one point.

Fuse Ensemble is a concept-based artistic endeavor between composer Gina Biver and new media artist Edgar Endress. This season Fuse is collaborating with artists Peter Winant and Tom Ashcraft of Workingman Collective to produce *Usina Mekanica*. Fuse Ensemble is based in Washington DC. [www.fusespace.org](http://www.fusespace.org)