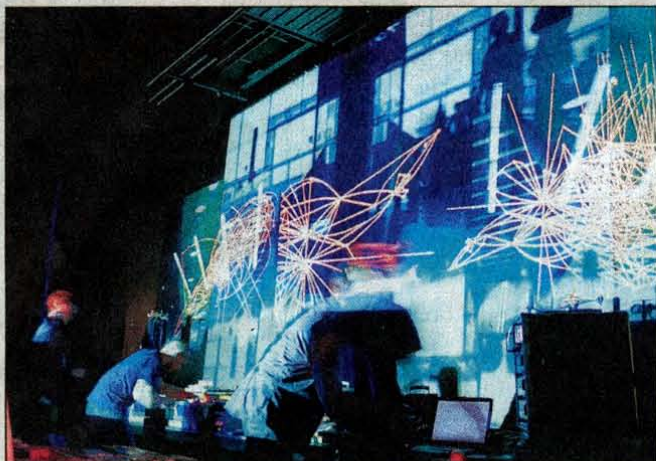




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**Scalpel please:** The Light Surgeons' work involves 'cutting and splicing things together'.

## Video jockeys with a vendetta

**June Cheong**

HE IS the light of every party he turns up for. But Christopher Allen is now sick of going out.

He is the founder of The Light Surgeons, a four-man London-based art collective working in a range of media from motion graphics to video installations.

The group has been performing gigs at clubs and bars across Britain for 10 years, which explains Allen's weariness.

The 31-year-old says: "I spend so much time in night-clubs that, in my free time, I prefer going to more intimate places where you can get into conversations with people.

"A lot of my art is generated from meeting people, travelling, engaging with the real world."

As part of the digital moving image festival onedotzero, The Light Surgeons will put on a one-hour live audio-visual show at Zouk this Friday night together with London-based electronica DJ Scanone.

Spinning off from local professional string quartet T'ang Quartet's Art Of War album, The Light Surgeons and Scanone will weave an audio-visual narrative exploring conflict.

Allen quips: "It's not going to be a happy show."

He started his troupe in 1996 after graduating with an honours degree in Media Design from Portsmouth Uni-

versity in Britain.

Moving back to London where he grew up, Allen was inspired by his elder brother's DJ gigs at pubs and clubs across town to start "cutting and splicing things together to comment on and satirise culture".

The Light Surgeons thus began as video mix artists or rather, VJs – video jockeys with a vendetta.

The culture of VJ-ing arose in clubs around the world in the mid-1980s fuelled by the growing popularity of house music.

It was viewed as a practice separate from the music and art worlds and trumpeted as a form of social communication between the VJs and the clubbing masses.

The Light Surgeons, who are looking to make feature-length films in the future, have performed in a glut of product and event launches, from Sony Playstation PSP launches to fashion shows to the X-Men movie premiere in Britain.

➤ The Light Surgeons perform at Zouk on Friday as part of onedotzero festival. Club cover charges apply. Details are available from <http://www.onedotzero.sg/>

➤ Domestic Archaeology, a new video installation work by The Light Surgeons on "discovering people's identities through their living rooms", is on at Geffrye Museum in east London and can be viewed online at <http://www.domestic-archaeology.com>

**'VJ-ing is an experimental form of film-making and allows people to explore images in a non-linear fashion'**

**Allen**