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### **Chris Melissinos**

Chris Melissinos, founder of Past Pixels and collector of video games and gaming systems, is the curator for the exhibition *The Art of Video Games*, which opens March 16, 2012 at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

Melissinos has been an avid gamer since he began programming his own games at age 10. His personal collection includes more than 40 systems, hundreds of games, and artifacts. Melissinos sees games as a unifying, multi-generational medium and he is a passionate advocate for preserving the rich history and archival materials of video games.

Melissinos has been engaged in the ongoing dialogue about video game technology, social trends, and the application of technology for more than a decade. He is a frequent speaker at game and technology conferences, including the Game Developers Conference, E3, Consumer Electronics Show (CES), Penny Arcade Expo, JavaOne, Smithsonian Web 2.0, and the U.S. Department of Defense Education Summit, as well as lecturing at universities across the globe.

Melissinos is currently vice president of corporate marketing for Verisign. Previously, he served as chief gaming officer and chief evangelist at Sun Microsystems. During his 15-year tenure with the company, he contributed to and led numerous technology developments, including the formation of the company's Game Technology Group, which developed Java Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) focused on media and entertainment markets and mobile technologies. He also was one of the originators of the Project Darkstar initiative.