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Preface

Welcome to the 2nd International Conference on Image and Video Retrieval, CIVR 2003. The goal of CIVR is to illuminate the state of the art in visual information retrieval and to stimulate collaboration between researchers and practitioners. This year we received 110 submissions from 26 countries. Based upon the reviews of at least 3 members of the program committee, 43 papers were accepted for the research track of the conference.

First, we would like to thank all of the members of the Program Committee and the additional referees listed below. Their reviews of the submissions played a pivotal role in the quality of the conference. Moreover, we are grateful to Nicu Sebe and Xiang Zhou for helping to organize the review process; Shih-Fu Chang and Alberto del Bimbo for setting up the practitioner track; and Erwin Bakker for editing the proceedings and designing the conference poster.

Special thanks go to our keynote and plenary speakers, Nevenka Dimitrova from Philips Research, Ramesh Jain from Georgia Tech, Chris Porter from Getty Images, and Alan Smeaton from Dublin City University. Furthermore, we wish to acknowledge our sponsors, the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, TsingHua University, the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), Philips Research, and the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science at Leiden University.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to several people who performed important work related to the organization of the conference: Jennifer Quirk and Catherine Zech for the local organization at the Beckman Institute; Richard Harvey for his help with promotional activity and sponsorship for CIVR 2003; and to the organizing committee of the first CIVR for setting up the international mission and structure of the conference.

May 21, 2003 Thomas S. Huang and Michael S. Lew

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