

Reflection 4 – by Olenka Yuen

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Exhausting A Crowd By Kayle McDonald

<https://www.exhaustingacrowd.com>

Kayle's project is inspired by Georges Perec's "An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris", it was an experimental piece that was written over three days in Paris. While briefly reading through the literature, it contains a fairly poetic writing style; phrases are listed and days are separated into chapters. Perec's literature was a calm and reflective reading. In contrast, when it comes to Kayle's interactive project, Exhausting a Crowd, it shows how the same idea brought into different mediums can lead to very different experiences.

Commentaries are short and by having an infinite online audience, it can quickly lead to many distractions and eventually, chaos. In addition, other ideas of individuals from a shared online presence may also greatly affect the note you want to type into the space. For example, when I first landed on the page I randomly clicked on an area and was surprised that I was prompted to "take a note". In all seriousness, I wrote what I saw on the screen. However, once I saw the other comments flooding in, I realized that it was an open space for all ideas rather than something to be quizzed on later.

One aspect I did find interesting was that some people were narrating the lives of things that were passing by, whether they be people, animals, or even vehicles. At the same time, the site did not only limit to English but different languages too (like French, Chinese, Japanese, etc). Occasionally, the camera would also shift to a different perspective or angle, which I thought was a nice touch. Furthermore, the site allowed the user to switch between different locations. For instance, you may want to start at Beijing and then switch the lens to London. Although, I did think of surveillance and privacy issues. The users of this site are free to screencap, record, and say everything they want, but do the developers have the recorded individuals' consent? I think this is a problem when it comes to using different media, even if

the author's intention is to use the same idea as the original, the tool being used could be the very thing that crosses the line.