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CART351  
Critical Reflection 2

<https://www.neddham.info/mouchette-org/>  
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The interactive web-art-site [Mouchette.org](https://mouchette.org/) was created in 1996 by a virtual pseudonymous character named “Mouchette.” The still active website uses expressive HTML elements to tell the story of an emotionally turbulent world of a french adolescent girl ([Rhizome](#)), and exposes the “fantasies born from her dark imagination.” With her personality being partially based on the film Mouchette, the storyline is filled with themes of sex and death. The actual (analog)



creator of the site remained a secret until 2010. This long-term anonymity—the mystery behind the website—as well as its taboo and provoking subject matters have given it international recognition as being a leading work in the history of net-art. Mouchette, nearly 13 years old, has many many fans, making her somewhat of a ‘cult’ figure, she is an artist and a poet interested in suicide and strangers, and was created by (and only ‘recently’ attributed to) visual artist [Martine Neddham](#).

Artist, professor, and researcher Martine Neddham went from analog to digital when she created Mouchette. Interested in the topic of online-identity (and the manipulation of it), she created many “internet virtual characters who lead an autonomous artistic existence in which the real author is never disclosed” throughout her career, the first being Mouchette. Her virtual characters are intended to be a tool for communication; utilizing pre-web 2.0 features Mouchette “constantly triggers user’s participation and response from her web audience” and “incites users to navigate the pages and interact with the seemingly innocent girl, in order to discover her corky, sexualized and dark sides.” The landing page introduces the innocent Mouchette with what appears to be her personal, simple, website. By clicking through a maze of hyperlinks, the story evolves into darker themes. For example, there is a page named “\*\*\*digital flesh&blood\*\*\*” displaying a close-up image of a young girl with her tongue out, seemingly licking the inside of your computer screen. The text says “want to know what my tongue tastes like? Try it on your screen and tell me.” User participation was an important element of the project, taking

contributions from users to form Mouchette's identity. Neddham created a complimentary website in 2003, Mouchette.net, where users could claim Mouchette's identity and alter her personal website. Mouchette now stands as a “singular and important archive of online culture—humorous, dark, and often surprisingly touching” ([Rhizome](#)).