amnesiascanner.net

music / band website

Breathing in and breathing out: the landing page of amnesiascanner.net is blinking and breathing as if it was in a hurry. With white text on a black background it seems to want to warn, or guide: reminiscent of a slowed down strobe at the club or a blinking lighthouse from afar. It spells out a single word, “another life”, giving hope of the full site to come. Once entering the main single page site, however, one is met with a landscape of death rather than another life.

A relatively disturbing audio track is auto playing. The only visible representation of the sound is a distorted sound wave in the top right corner, and a broken text that is spelling out: “Go ahead, I’m listening” and “What can I help you with today?”. Not much it seems since the audio appears to be impossible to turn off. Instead when clicked, the sound wave automatically downloads a zip file (that turns out to contain music). The site has a black background and asymmetric layout: to the left is a logo element made up of the word ‘oracle’, but without function.

Without any visual suspension for the sound one starts to move around the site to explore hidden levels or dynamicity to the square and fixed elements. A short scroll down and things start to change: the black and white inverted (sometimes moving) images overlay in a parallax scroll, the sound starts to morph, a square element at the bottom of the screen takes the part of a horizontal scrollbar.

As one moves down the site the audio appears in chunks of tunes: distinguishable, but seamlessly (albeit with dissonance) blending into each other with. I recognize the bits of audio from Amnesia Scanner’s latest release, but I’m hearing them in a new distorted way with the blend and levels of overlay being up to the person controlling the scroll and movements up and down. Scroll fast and you get a messy kaleidoscopic soundscape of screaming voices and noise. Scroll slow and you can take in each tune individually, but it is impossible to know where exactly one tune begins and the other end.

How does one design chaos?

How does one design being fucked up at the club, living inside of headphones, being stuck in a place of darkness and turbulence.

I know that the site is designed and programmed by PWR studio in Berlin, who also do much of Amnesia Scanner’s other visual output, but who conceptualized the website I can only guess. I wonder if the band gave the designers a collection of audio files to freestyle a website from, or if it’s more of planned and calculated than that. I also wonder if the site changes for each release, if the spatial and visual space of the web adapts to capture a new little bit of chaos each time, in line with the aural landscape.

The website has no links, no sections. There’s no about page, no references to SoundCloud or Spotify or their record label PAN, or any other ‘commercializing’ means. When typing in Amnesia Scanner on google the first hit is their website, the second their bandcamp, the third their bandcamp for merch, number four is Facebook and five is their YouTube. When Google is the worlds link page, why include it on the site? A website doesn’t need to be everything, but can be a small fraction of a life: a place of one’s rhizomatic own.

I’m sitting in the studio at 10.30pm on a Saturday night, drinking red bull and listening to screaming loud club music in my headphones and miss places, and people, and a world larger and more broken than the graphic design studio – somewhere with a chaos that’s more alive and communicable than what’s inside my head and music, and amnesiascanner.net makes me feel a little bit less alone and more accepting of the chaos within.

siangcheng.com

artist website

I came in to iancheng.com looking for another website, from memory or imagination: one mimicking his work: of full screen live simulations of sleek technological 3D-generated debris falling in tingling formations forming irregular piles of matter. Instead I’m met with a brutalist looking website with an array of images, moving images and gifs. A chaos of the friendlier sorts?

Fittingly, there is a #all page (next to flowing gif of a river), where all information is stacked (mostly vertically, but with horizontal clusters of images) together. Small low resolution gifs are dominating the site, each moving at their own speed and create an enervating tension to the larger auto-play videos still images, and blocks of text. Moving over to #images, and one is met with a glorious cascade of imagery of all sizes – fixed containers of moving debris, a simulation of a simulation in small portions.

It appears that the website (iancheng.com) is moving in opposite direction of the artist’s career: the more institutional shows, the more personal form of address – this iteration even has a #FAQ where the artist himself (?) answers questions. Because therein lies the question: just because it appears to be made simply, and simply by, the artist – is it necessarily so?