

ISEA2017
23rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ELECTRONIC ART
XVI INTERNATIONAL IMAGE FESTIVAL
LEARNING CALL

1. Title

Alien WebMD

2. Duration (only workshops and tutorials)

Half day ____ Full day ____

3. Organizers and presenters' names and affiliations

Daria Taback

4. Abstract (ready for diffusion). 200 words maximum.

Alien WebMD is an Internet zine that visually expresses a collective consciousness about various topics, mediated through the unique and self-referential language and framework of the Internet, using illustrations, audio, gifs, memes, video, prose, popups, essays, and images collaged together. The zine further explores virtual renditions of real and imagined places as interpreted through the lens of DIY web technology, and invites a non-hierarchical exploration of interactive webpages. The zine's issues are generated by the collective efforts of digital artists whose work is based on a unifying theme. In a world in which our perceptions are constantly informed by the technologies we use, our memories are created by the way we curate lives over Internet media. This zine serves as a sort of memory archive, collective journal, and exercise in digital world building, with a nod to a pre-Web 2.0 ethos. In this respect, Alien WebMD showcases an intellectual and artistic heritage of media in a global, amorphous, yet distinct and celebrated place: the web.

5. Rationale, instructional methods, and description

This work is meant to express a collage of thoughts, feelings, memories and projections around contemporary issues on an experimental, interactive, non-linear web-based platform. It involves the collective efforts of digital artists, writers, and thinkers on an ongoing basis, whose work centers around a predetermined theme. Issue development is in progress, but will eventually cover topics such as:

- Heaven, hell & the occult
- Hypochondria, paranoia, and conspiracy theories influenced by web access
- Gender dynamics in an age of digital communications and a reclamation of and reaction against feminism
- Clowns, fear of clowns, and the uncanny valley
- A reclamation of the boybands webring
- An immersive virtual psychic experience, where fortunes are read
- Reflections and perceptions of a post-inauguration Facebook
- Cyborgs and surveillance
- Fake news about fake news
- Reflections on mental health and issues

The project is aware and celebratory of the web as medium for artistic expression, with a particular homage to the experimental, absurd nature and aesthetic of the Internet of the late '90's. It is simultaneously critiquing the ways in which web technology influences our lives and ways of thinking. The ISEA subtheme it falls under is "Media art, landscape and heritage," as it showcases an intellectual and artistic heritage of the web.

6. Plan to solicit participation (only workshops and tutorials)

7. URL of website (only workshops and tutorials)

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8. Technical Rider. Please provide the requirements (technological equipment, materials and characteristics of space) (only workshops and tutorials)

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9. Biographies of the Author(s).

Daria studied Studio Art, Art History, and Politics at Oberlin College earning a B.A. in 2010. She is currently enrolled as an MFA candidate at the University of California at Davis. She has worked in education and design in the Bay Area, beginning as a print designer at a nation-wide nurses union. She recently helped cultivate an Oakland-based tech startup, designing a SaaS product for growing nonprofits. She is interested in critiquing and, if at all possible, improving, abating, or/and re-appropriating the aspects of the tech industry which currently impact labor practices, community, displacement, and the rapidly changing local landscape. She is also interested in issues around post-modern identity and the relationship between technology and gender.

Author:

First name: Daria

Last name: Taback

Email: dptaback@ucdavis.edu

Country: United States

Organization: MFA Student at UC Davis

Web page: www.dariataback.com

Title: Alien WebMD

Abstract:

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interpreted through the lens of DIY web technology, and invites a non-hierarchical exploration of interactive webpages. The zine's issues are generated by the collective efforts of digital artists whose work is based on a unifying theme. In a world in which our perceptions are constantly informed by the technologies we use, our memories are created by the way we curate lives over Internet media. This zine serves as a sort of memory archive, collective journal, and exercise in digital world building, with a nod to a pre-Web 2.0 ethos. In this respect, Alien WebMD showcases an intellectual and artistic heritage of media in a global, amorphous, yet distinct and celebrated place: the web.

Keywords:

zine, webzine, collage, digital art, web heritage, cyborgs, feminism, identity, community, collaboration, dyi, low-fi

Sub-theme:

Media art, landscape and heritage