The Art, Theory & Techniques of Free Software

Jaromil's Journal of Musings

October 3, 2008

This thematic project will introduce students to the aesthetics of the free software creative universe, to the instruments adopted and in course of development. We will explore source code with a linguistic approach, looking for possibilities to define and adopt new languages to create audio-visual materials, deconstructing the pre-established syntactic and semantic rules imposed by applications on the consumer market.

The practical part of the course will focus on using and customising language based tools for the creation and publication of audio, video and text, among them: FreeJ[1] (Javascript), Fluxus[2] (Lisp/Scheme), Context Free Art[3], Emacs[4], Muse-el[5], Latex[6].

Participants are requested to read and comment on the following texts:

- "Constructing Media Spaces", Josephine Bosma, Medien Kunst Netz (2006)[7]

- "Words Made Flesh", Florian Cramer, Piet Zwart Institute (2005)[8]

- "I Love you", digitalcraft (2004)[9]

- "Software, Art, Aesthetics", Andreas Broeckmann, Runtime Art (2004)[10]

- "Read_me, run_me, execute_me", Inke Arns, Medien Kunst Netz (2004)[11]

- "Not Just Art", Saul Albert, twenteenthcentury (2003)[12]

- "Digital Code and Literary Text", Florian Cramer, Freie Univ. Berlin (2003)[13]

- "Smash the Surface / Break Open the Box / Disrupt the Code", Eric Kluitenberg, ProContra / CFront (2000)[14]

- "net.art on nettime", Robert Adrian X, Ljudmila Medialab (1996)[15]

- "Art, Power, and Communication", Alexei Shulgin (1996)[16]

Scueduled every thusday from 2 october to 11 december 2008

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[1] http://freej.dyne.org
[2] http://www.pawfal.org/Software/fluxus/
[3] http://contextfreeart.org/
[4] http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/emacs.html
[5] http://mwolson.org/projects/EmacsMuse.html
[6] http://www.guit.sssup.it/
[7] http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/themes/public_sphere_s/media_spaces/
[8] http://pzwart.wdka.hro.nl/mdr/research/fcramer/wordsmadeflesh/wordsmadefleshpdf
[9] http://www.digitalcraft.org/iloveyou/catalogue.htm
[10] http://runtimeart.mi2.hr/TextAndreasBroeckmann
[11] http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/themes/generative-tools/read_me/print/
[12] http://twenteenthcentury.com/saul/not_just_art.htm
[13] http://cramer.plaintext.cc/essays/digital_code_and_literary_text/digital_code_and_literary_text.pdf
[14] http://amsterdam.nettime.org/Lists-Archives/nettime-l-0006/msg00132.html
[15] http://www.ljudmila.org/nettime/zkp4/37.htm
[16] http://sunsite.cs.msu.su/wwwart/apc.htm

0.1 2 october

Introduction

- programming languages and patterns - object oriented pattern

Reading assignment

- "Constructing Media Spaces", Josephine Bosma, Medien Kunst Netz (2006)[17]

Software

- Emacs[18] - muse[19]

0.2 9 october

More intro

Reading assignment

- "Words Made Flesh", Florian Cramer, Piet Zwart Institute (2005)[20]

Software

- Context Free Art[21]

- FreeJ[22] (Javascript)

- Fluxus[23] (Lisp/Scheme)

0.3 16 october

Individual tutorials with single students

Reading assignment

- "I Love you", digitalcraft (2004)[24]

Software

0.4 23 october BREAK (no session)

0.5 30 october

Reading assignment

- "Software, Art, Aesthetics", Andreas Broeckmann, Runtime Art (2004)[25]

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[17]http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/themes/public_sphere_s/media_spaces/
[18]http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/emacs.html
[19]http://mwolson.org/projects/EmacsMuse.html
[20]http://pzwart.wdka.hro.nl/mdr/research/fcramer/wordsmadeflesh/wordsmadefleshpdf
[21]http://contextfreeart.org/
[22]http://freej.dyne.org
[23]http://www.pawfal.org/Software/fluxus/
[24]http://www.digitalcraft.org/iloveyou/catalogue.htm
[25]http://runtimeart.mi2.hr/TextAndreasBroeckmann

(afternoon) Essay circles

0.6   6 november

FILM Piracy and media distribution (Pirated Copy movie)

Reading assignment

- "Read_me, run_me, execute_me", Inke Arns, Medien Kunst Netz (2004)[26]

?? SW

0.7   13 november

Reading assignment

- "Not Just Art", Saul Albert, twenteenthcentury (2003)[27]

- "Piratology", A. Medosh[28]

?? SW

0.8   14–15 november BITNIK wshop

0.9   20 november

Reading assignment

- "Digital Code and Literary Text", Florian Cramer, Freie Univ. Berlin (2003)[29]

Guests

- BITNIK

0.10   27 november

DEADLINE for the essays

Reading assignment

- "Smash the Surface / Break Open the Box / Disrupt the Code", Eric Kluitenberg, ProContra / CFront (2000)[30]

Excursion in A'dam for Speaking out Loud NIMK

0.11   4 december

Reading assignment

- "net.art on nettime", Robert Adrian X, Ljudmila Medialab (1996)[31]

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[26]http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/themes/generative-tools/read_me/print/
[27]http://twenteenthcentury.com/saul/not_just_art.htm
[28]http://kop.fact.co.uk/DIVE/cd/text/pirate.html
[29]http://cramer.plaintext.cc/essays/digital_code_and_literary_text/digital_code_and_literary_text.pdf
[30]http://amsterdam.nettime.org/Lists-Archives/nettime-l-0006/msg00132.html
[31]http://www.ljudmila.org/nettime/zkp4/37.htm

(afternoon) Practical works circles

0.12   11 december

Reading assignment

- "Art, Power, and Communication", Alexei Shulgin (1996)[32]

0.13   18 december

Final presentations of practical works

guests?

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[32]http://sunsite.cs.msu.su/wwwart/apc.htm