

I've been struggling for the past half an hour to come up with an opening line for this reflection and I think I finally understand why. The Web Work article by Rachel Greene evokes a feeling of both deep fascination and sadness over internet pages as a medium for art. But before we get into those, let's explore some of the interesting parts of this article.

Right out of the gate, I love the fact that NET.ART was born from a corrupt email; an email that would begin the realization of the internet as an artistic medium. And even though a few of the pages listed in this article (such as 7-11.org) are no longer up, the few that are offer an opportunity to see the birth of good ideas. Take "My Boyfriend Came Back from the War" for example. This website not only seemed to be one of the first to move the punk aesthetic to the web, but also the beginning of interactive stories (a medium now that has its own dedicated engine with Twine). There was something surreal about playing through it via a website that used an old Netscape browser. It felt personal, heavy, and even though it has the makings of everything that makes an engaging website and fascinating piece of art, this article was the first I'd heard of it.

And it was this piece by Olia Lialina that ultimately made me switch from fascination to sadness.

With art, there are a near limitless amounts of mediums to work with, but internet art (or rather good, personal internet art) is rarely ever spoken of outside its circles, and yet all these offer something that stands in contrast to the hygienically clean internet we know today. The web has felt different between now and when I was a kid and up until this point, I was never able to point out why. Now I realize that it's because the main web content seems to have been stripped of all that made it special. The lack of polish and individualism is no longer something we want to see, and yet these artists chose to reject such ideas. If nothing else, these sites serve as a

testament to the idea that good art, art that offers you a new perspective, is often imperfect. And to offer up a final example of how these pieces are still as effective today, it has made me reconsider web activism and NET.ART as a medium I would like to primarily work with in the future.