Response to Interactive Reading Week 1:

“Internet art” is the (late) 20th and (early) 21st century’s Avant Garde. These artists radically changed the art scene, taking the ideas and methodologies of conceptual art, and morphing it into a brand new art form, only made possibly by the creation of the cyberworld. This internet art engaged the audience in new ways, much like contemporary artists of today, which allowed for direct engagement and a free-market exchange of ideas and opinions through an (almost) anonymous system. Artists encouraged and juried discussions that challenged the status-quo, addressing politics, gender and identity, and other prevailing social issues.

Today, the cyberspace and concepts that were initiated by these internet artists still live on today. The awareness that was brought in the 80s and 90s have stayed in the forefront of the minds of the mainstream internet world. Discussion boards, blogs, and tumblrs have become the new canvases upon which ideas are presented and challenged. Although not all art is created for a strictly internet audience—in this modern day and age, as many people love the materiality of art in this increasingly digital age—the same concepts as the parents of contemporary internet art still hold true.

My understanding of internet art is that it is made for the purpose of display or function in a webpage format. I feel that internet art should be strictly produced for display or function in a digital format, however, I know that that limits the creative possibilities of the artist. Many artists enjoy the multi-dimensional forms that their art can take, and they use that to challenge new ideas and possibilities in their own art.

Internet art is forever changing and embracing new ideas, incorporating new concepts and techniques that reflect the ever-evolving technologies, addressing new emotional, moral, and civic issues which plague society. As the internet evolves so does it’s art, and as the arts evolve, so does the internet. They are separate and interdependent entities which constantly reflect and contest each other.

What do you think of, what artists and styles and mediums do you think of, when you hear the world “internet-art?”

With the internet and internet art, have we found more common-ground and similarities across cultures or have we found ourselves found further reasons why there is some sense of otherness or?

Do you feel the internet has provided a safer environment where free-speech and freedom-of expression is more accepted or do you feel that it is more hostile? Do you feel that there is a better opportunity to defend your ideas, or do you feel that there is a “bandwagon attack force” waiting in the dark to strike when you present an undesirable opinion?

The internet is widely anti-capitalist and anti-commercialist. Do you feel that the internet (and internet art) would be the same without commercial ventures? Would the internet have formed in the same manner? What role does commercialism play in the world wide web?