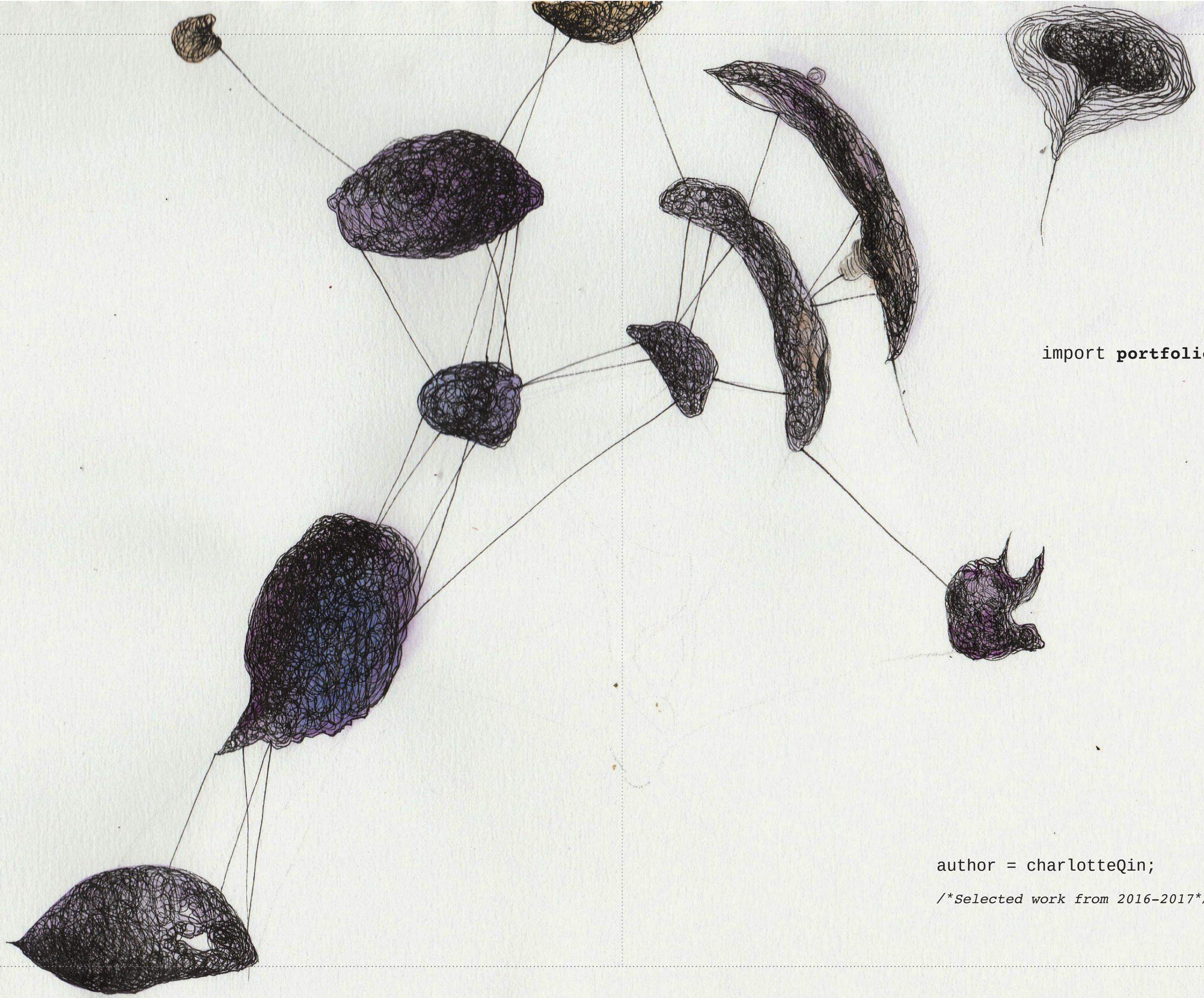
© 2017



import **portfolio**;

author = charlotteQin;

*/*Selected work from 2016–2017*/*

Portfolio by
Charlotte Qin

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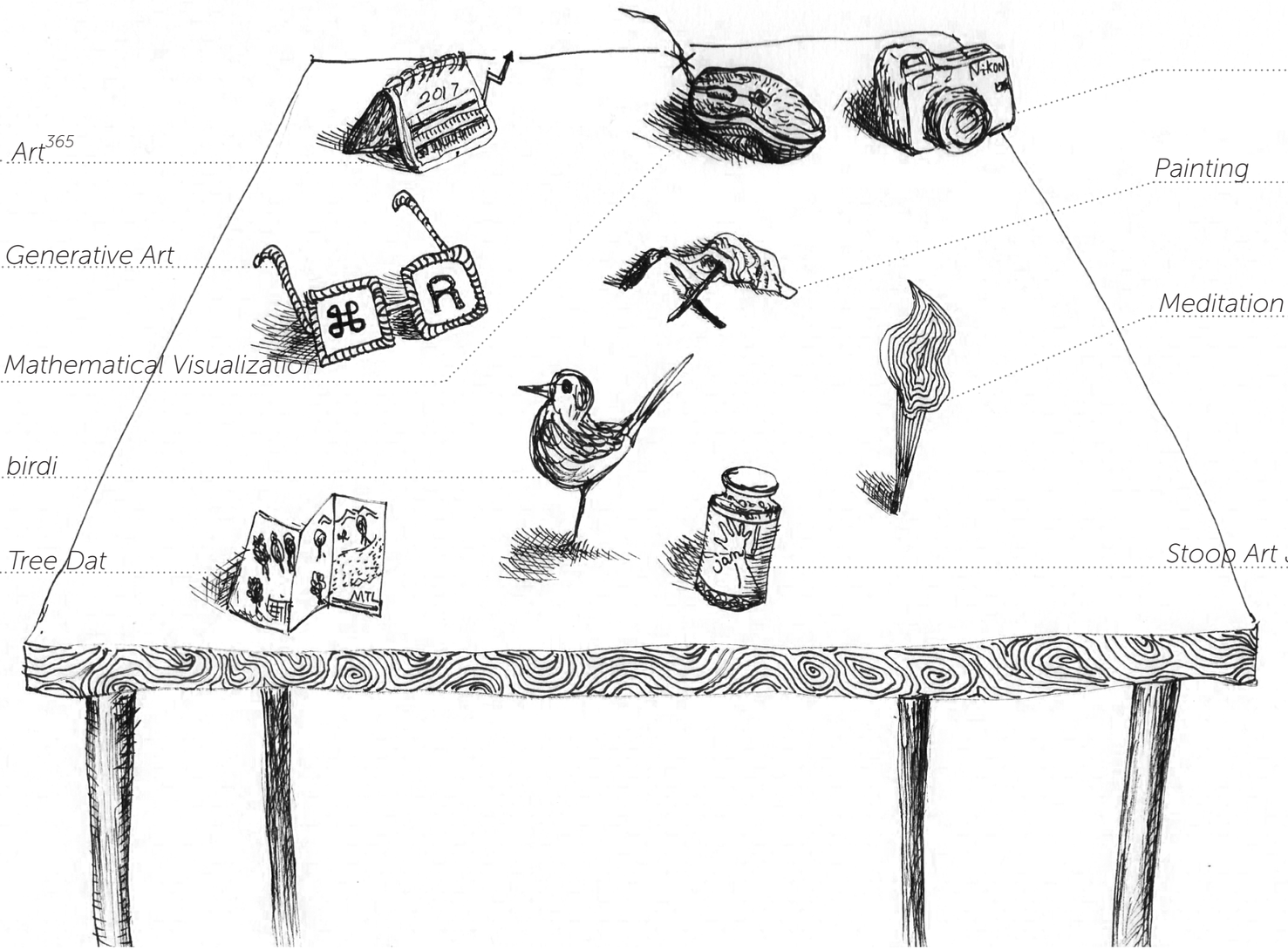


PROJECT BLOG:
https://ello.co/charliananas

Art^{365} is a year-long challenge that aims to make an artwork each day for a year from October 12, 2016 to October 11, 2017.

Coming out of my four years of study at university as a physics major, I chose to pursue a career as a designer and artist. I came up with an idea to enhance my creative self and build up an art portfolio, which was to create an artwork every day for 365 days.

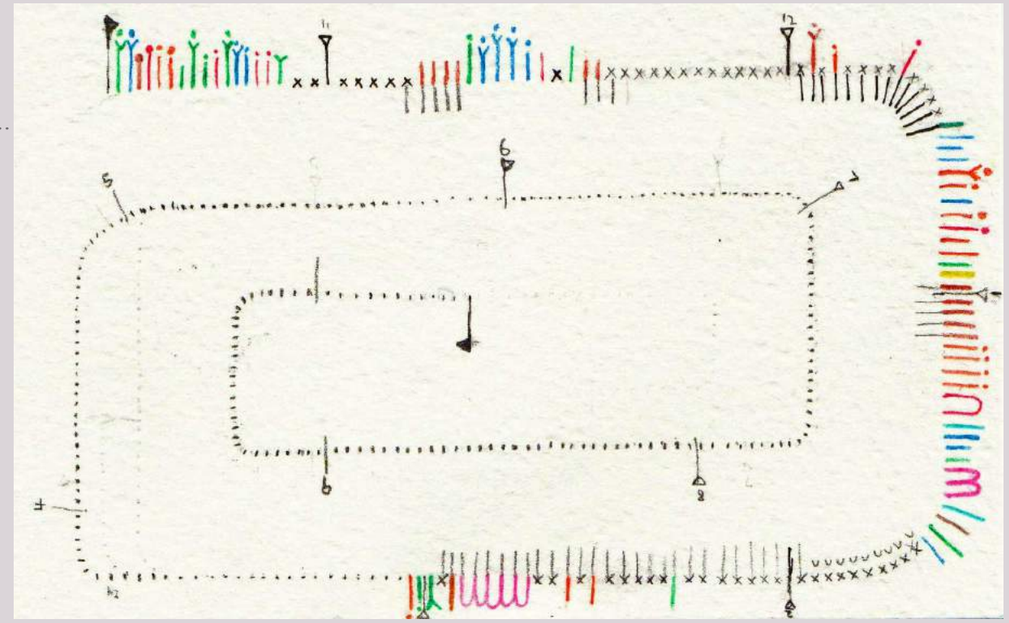
Through the project, I have embraced my life with many new insights. On some days, I draw or paint without a plan. This kind of practice is a meditative experience and it feels like a path to sanity that allows self-connecting through a flow of free emotions. Other times, I challenge myself to create artworks with newly acquired skills in software and programming. But what most often happens is that I encounter an event or some thoughts during the day, and I write them in art at night. Since I had not set any restrictions to the medium to use for the art challenge, I was encouraged to explore a crazy variety of art forms. Fortunately, I have discovered my favourite interests over time and had produced more developed work to showcase in this portfolio.

Nevertheless, it is very difficult to have a constant flow of ideas every day and almost impossible to have a finished artwork on each day. There were many nights I was working at 2 or 3 A.M., and times when I was burned out and be like "why ain't I thinking about anything else other than my artwork the whole day?" I also had artless days because of travelling, holiday or simply laziness. But almost everything I did in those days was to open my senses to life and recharge myself for more creative thinking and art making afterward.

Of course, the real purpose of the self-challenge is not to have a 100% completion score, but to maintain a great level of creativity in everyday life, and be inspired by life. :)

Inspired by Giorgia Lupi and Stephanie Posavec's data art project, "Dear Data", I made my own infographic log book for all the artworks I've made since October 12, 2016.

#2



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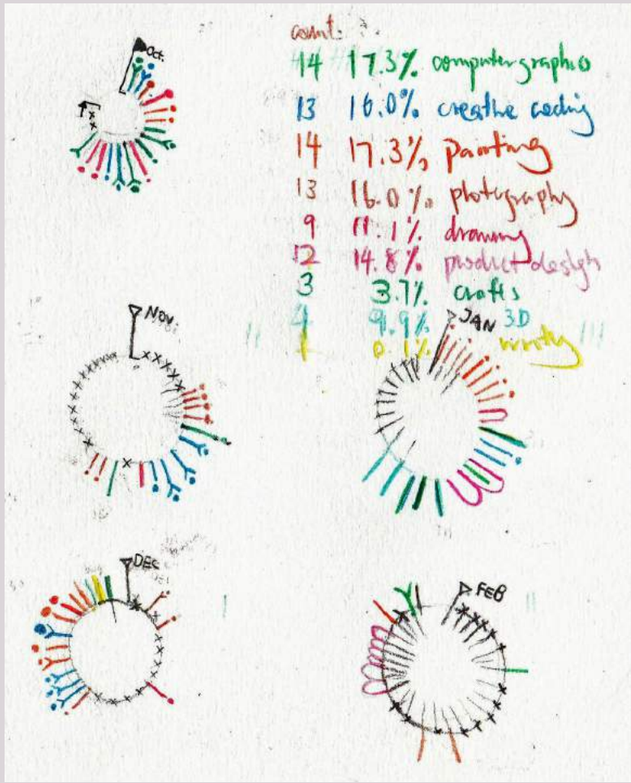

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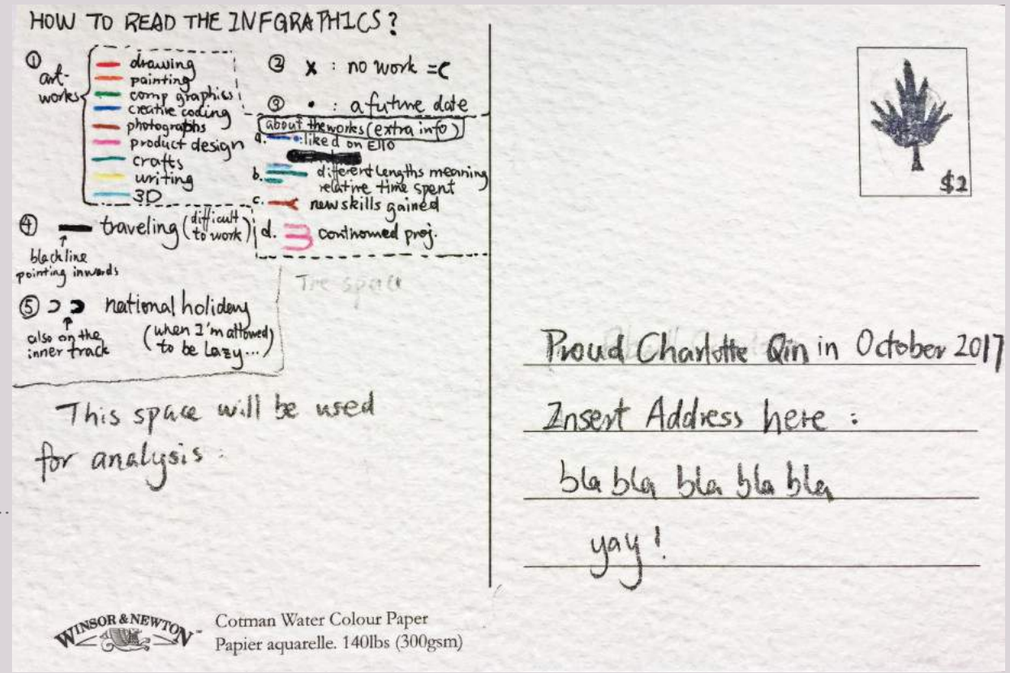
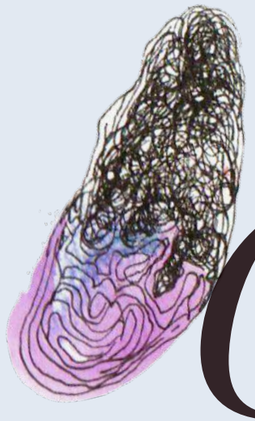


#1 Monthly summary of my artistic activities, including an analysis on the proportion of each artistic category in comparison to the total working days (Oct 12, 2016 - Feb 28, 2017).

#2
Ongoing
Year-round art log drawn on the front page of a blank postcard
#3
Ongoing
Guide to comprehend the data on the back of the post card



Works from Oct 2016 - Jan 2017

INSTAGRAM:
https://www.instagram.com/codingartist/

Generative Art

Generative art is one of my favourite art forms because it combines my two passions: art and coding. This chapter of the portfolio showcases works that I created using systems of mathematics and randomization as well as a piece of reflective writing that goes along with one of my works.

The major tool that I focus on learning is Processing3, but I also have explored a little bit some software like NodeBox3 and Max.

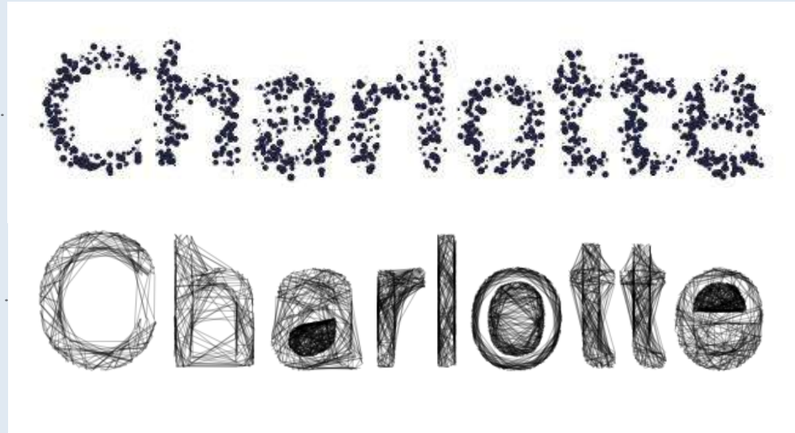
INSPIRATION
http://natureofcode.com/
https://funprogramming.org/
https://joshuadavis.com/
https://kadenze.com/courses/generative-art-and-computational-creativity-i/sessions/introduction-and-typology-of-generative-art
https://www.nodebox.net/

#1

#1 Self-portrait animation; swarming generated by random oscillation on all three dimensions in Processing3
#2 My name written with a grid-generating algorithm in Processing3
#3 Another spider look of my name written with a Pythagoras algorithm in Processing3
#4 Portraits made with a grid-generating algorithm; edited in Adobe Illustrator

#2

#3



#4

Recreational writing:

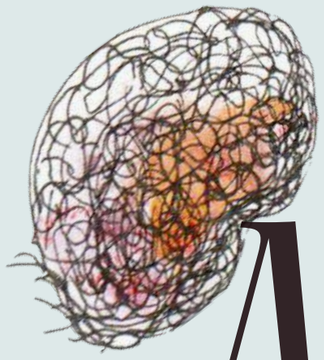
History: This is for the 60 years of struggle of a people under colonization, which the communist Chinese disclaim and the world is predominantly unconcerned. I deeply sympathize the struggle of the broken generations of Tibetan and wanted to create this piece of art to retrospect the divorce of the two nations that had shared thousands of years of friendship. As a product of the cold war and neocolonialism, the over-half-century brokenness of Tibet and China relation still goes on due to the coexistence of leadership of opposite styles. One leader rules over the nation through power, ambition, and suspicion. The other one teaches compassion, tolerance and gives a constant flow of hope to his people in exile. Ironically, both leaders have been idolized.

Duality (Yin Yang): Is living all about embracing the good and condemn the evil? Maybe not so. According to the Buddhist concept of Sunyata ("the void") states, the good and evil are just empty conceptual abstractions that have no permanent independent existence. Similar to the Taoist belief: the good and evil are merely the moral qualities at two extremes of a single spectrum.

The purpose is to contrast the good by using the evil. When one labels something as a good, one automatically creates evil (i.e. all concepts are based on one versus another, otherwise, it would be nonsensical). The world is created to balance the good and the evil because the reality of good and evil is that all actions contain some aspect of each. Virtue did not lie at one end or the other of this spectrum, but through carefully maintaining a balance between the two.

Reality: The major world leaders today perpetuate the colonial mentality (i.e. cultural imperialism, investment). But there is no use to condemn them. We living creatures of all species fight on this planet to survive til this moment. The concept of ownership, power, and control are encoded in our genes, just like both the evil and good are parts of nature. The evil will never eliminate itself, but any evil might soon be replaced by good, vice versa.

We are facing upcoming threats like climate change, diseases, poverty, and natural catastrophes rather than warfare. A new civilization of living in harmony with nature ought to be established and adopted by more countries. May the world have more leaders of compassion and tolerance like Dalai Lama to help the generations succeed in infinite games of the world and survive as a species.



Works from Oct 2016 - Feb 2017

Mathematical Art

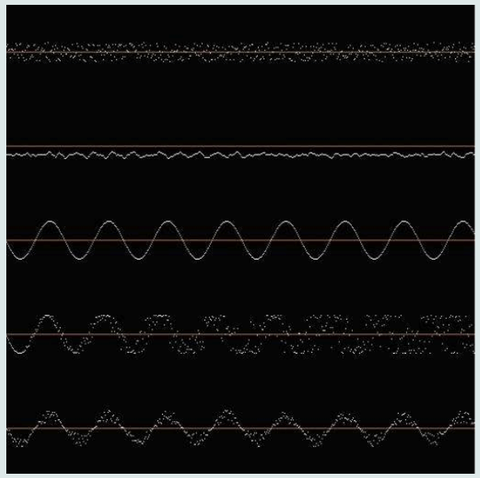
INSPIRATION:
1. Introductory TilingTheory for Computer Graphics, Craig S. Kaplan 2009
2. http://www.chaoscope.org/
3. http://natureofcode.com/

My physics and mathematics education in undergraduate was an intellectual journey, but hardly a creative adventure. There were enough analyzing and problem-solving, but not so much visualization and free thinking. The saddest part of our education system is that we separate art and science to the two opposite extremes. Science and art are undeniably interconnected. Both science and art are inspired by human attempts to understand and describe the world around us, lthough subjects and methods have different traditions and the intended audiences can vary.

This chapter contains some of my artworks inspired by mathematics. What I am presenting is not as rich as I want it to be for the moment being, but mathematical and physical visualization is a major project of interest on my bucket list.

Recreational Writing:

Randomness is opposite to the omniscient deity, which we humans cannot understand or create. As human beings, intelligent thinkers, children of creativity and curiosity, we seek for patterns of nature and life (that's why we created sciences and arts). Yet, we still try to generate pseudo-randomness and probabilities to model the 'real' world (I'd rather call it the unknown). If the past, the present, and the future are a unity, would randomness still be incomprehensible? What knowledge are we lacking that prohibits our understanding? What approach or belief will take us there?
??



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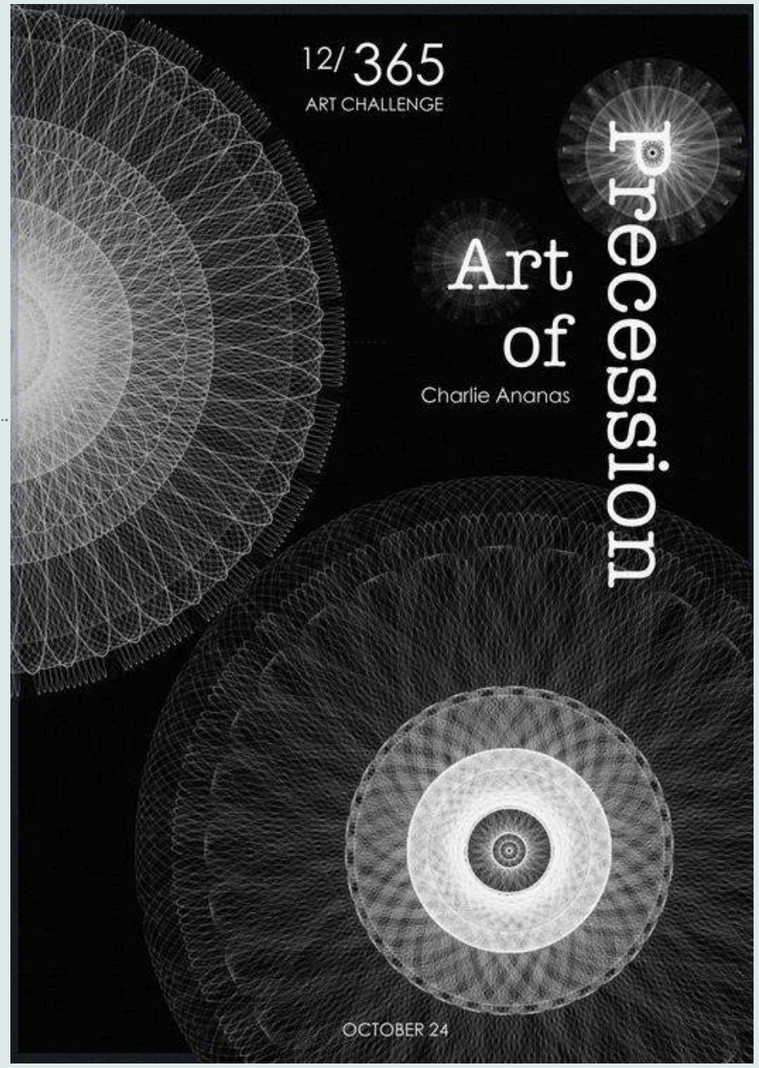

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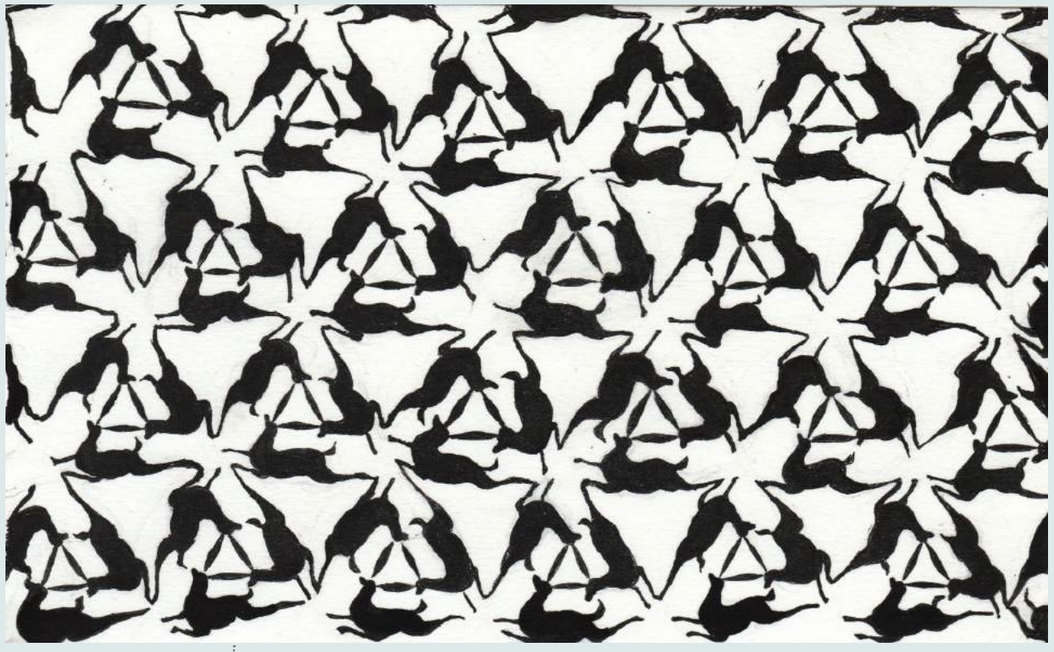

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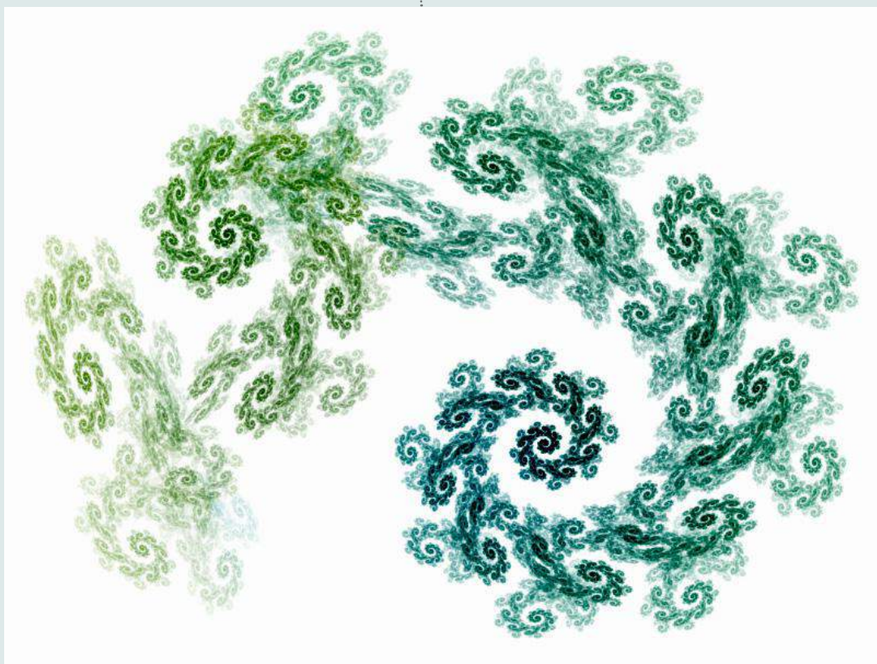
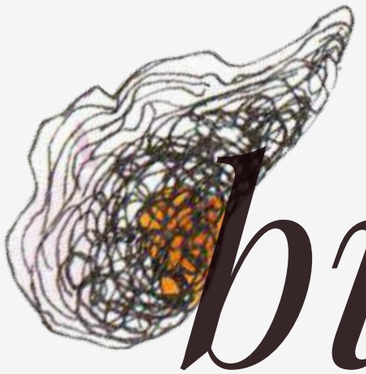


#1 Poster design with images acquired from simulation of classical gravitation and precession in Processing3
#2 Hand-drawn tiling design of deers in a triangular composition
#3 3D Visualization of a seahorse-shaped fractals rendered with Chaoscope
#4 Exploring randomness on sinusoidal waves made with Processing3



birdi

Works from Oct 2016 - Jan 2017

VIDEO DEMONSTRATION:
https://vimeo.com/200723633
INTERACTIVE PROTOTYPE:
https://xd.adobe.com/view/e5301e16-96e3-4b3a-9493-97b29834df76/

The name of the app 'birdi' is inspired by the belief of Taoism. I played the wording by reversing "i" products of Apple company (i.e. iBird -> birdi). The message is "nature before 'i'", or anti-individualism. Humans and all other lifeforms are equal creations of nature; no one owns the other. Respect, not conquer.

ABOUT THE PRODUCT

This section presents the design process of my final project, a mobile app prototype, for the course of "Product Design: The Delft Design Approach (TU Deft)" on edX (https://www.edx.org/course/product-design-delft-design-approach-delftx-dda691x-1).

"birdi" comes from the forest. He is a 'smart alarm' to help people enhance their morning rituals and synchronize their sleep schedule to be in harmony with nature.

The app interface first takes the information on sleep habits, lifestyles and morning appointment schedules from the user. Next, the birdi algorithm designs a suitable sleep/wake-up schedule for the user based on the honest information provided. After the design is complete, birdi reminds you to rest, wake up and leave the house every day all with the sound of nature from our library of over 80 different birds (The alarm can switch to non-stop, annoying songs if you refuse to wake up in the morning, or leave the house later than scheduled...). Additionally, the algorithm fine-tunes the schedule depending on the feedback on how energetic or tired the user feels on the following day.

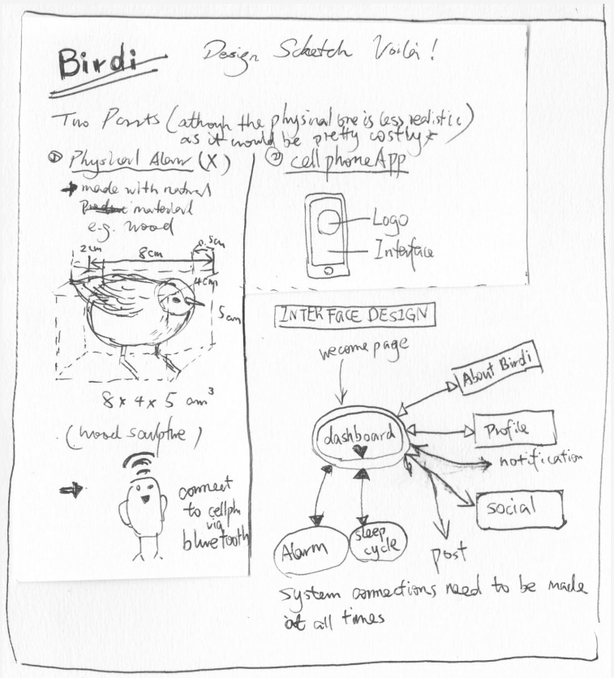
Furthermore, birdi also includes a social platform where the user can share his/her morning rituals with friends who are connected through the App. A certain number of energy points are granted to each user daily based on how energetic, healthy the user feels with the use of the App.

DESIGN PROCESS

The online lectures from TU Delft offered both the theoretical introduction to design thinking and practical techniques of user-centred design methods. A large percentage of time was spent practicing the methods after class and working on identifying design challenges, generating ideas and developing concepts.

In the first week, I interviewed a few friends and mapped out all the morning rituals and the emotion attached to each activity. I took the struggles of a friend with ADHD as my design challenge. My friend stays up late in the night and often cannot wake up to his morning alarms; even if he does, he often arrives late for appointments or job interviews. Many young adults today face the same issue of self-discipline and bad sleep cycles to some extent. We often sacrifice our good nights of sleep for whatever reasons and cannot put ourselves together in the morning. We are so used to sleep past midnight and not doing much in the morning. This kind of lifestyle results in energy deficiency, mood fluctuation, and even serious health issues. But you know, in nature, the sunlight divides the time periods of activities and sleep for all living beings. We humans need to respect that! My strategy to improve my own lifestyle is, every once in a while, to seek for an escape from the city life (i.e. camping) that would put me back in harmony with nature.

That was why I wanted to create an accessible design that provides us a piece of nature at home ("birdi") to feel reconnected with the sun, the moon, and the morning and night birds.



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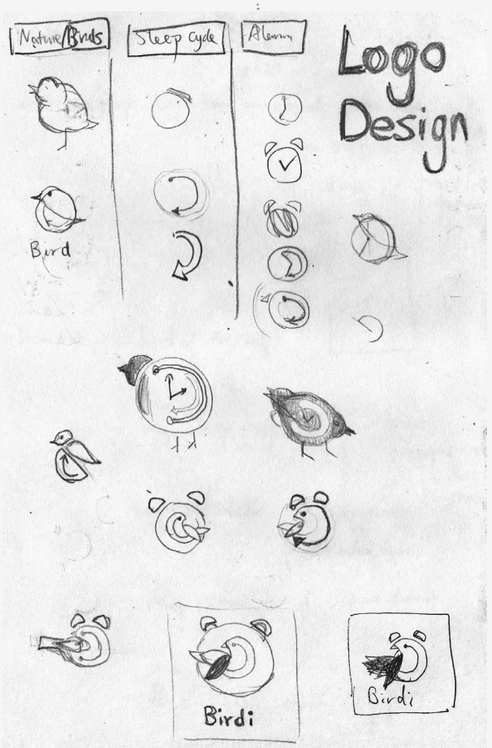

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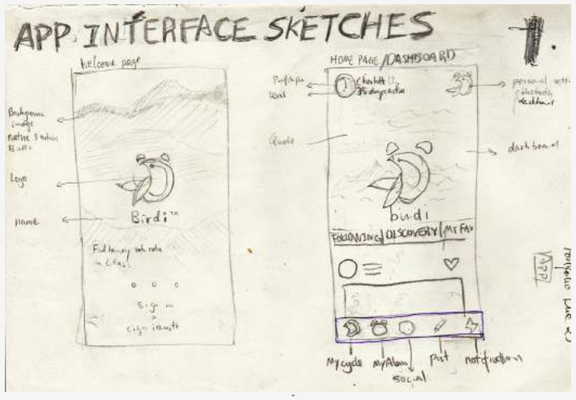

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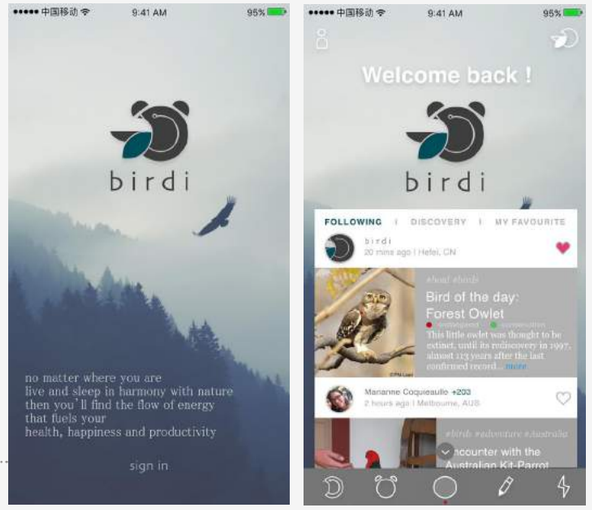

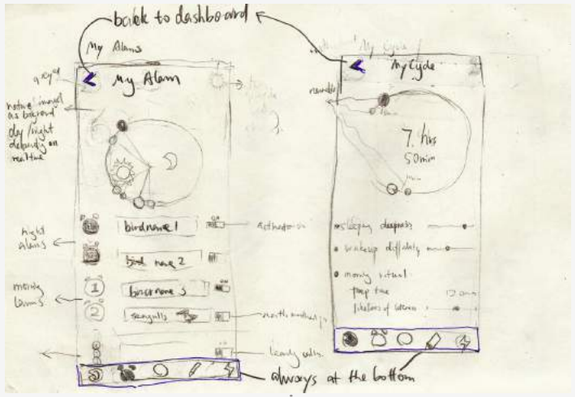

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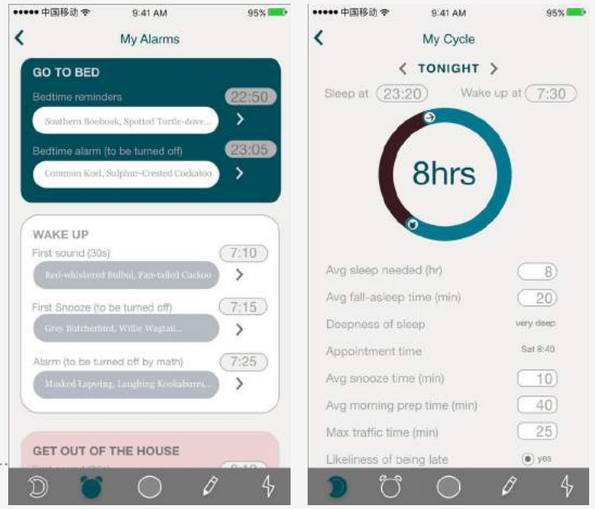
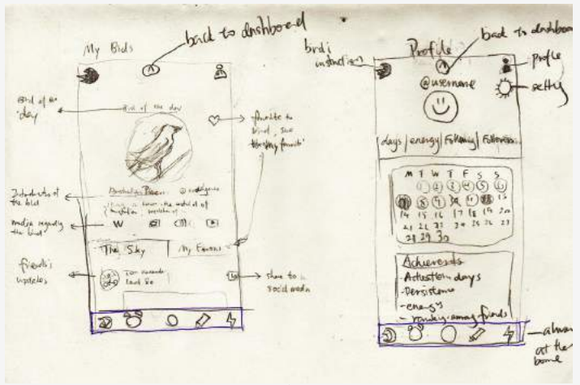
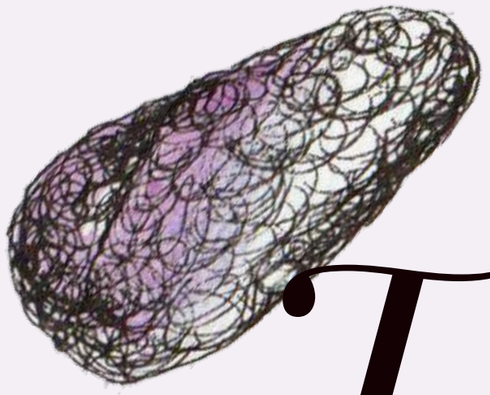




#6

#1 Concept development sketch
#2 Logo design for birdi
#3 Guide to use birdi (accessed in the app)
#4 Sketched vs. rendered interface for the welcome page and the dashboard
#5 Sketched vs. rendered interface for the alarm and sleep cycle entries
#6 Sketched vs. rendered interface on the user and birds profile, although the later was considered unnecessary and later combined with the social panel

Works from May 2016, reedited in Feb 2017



Tree Dat

VIDEO DEMONSTRATION:
https://vimeo.com/206189669
INTERACTIVE PROTOTYPE:
https://xd.adobe.com/view/b74f1c51-0189-4b2a-81ed-98b092d3374f/

The city of Montreal will be planting a green corridor of 300,000 trees on the Montreal Island. The city planners are looking for innovative ideas and tools to improve the service of urban biodiversity and find the ideal areas to plant the trees. Hackcité (https://hackcite.com/, a city hackathon that runs through the weekend of 14th and 15th of May 2016, gathered developers, data scientists, designers, and free thinkers together with the city's botanists and urban planners to tackle the challenge.

Tree Dat is the design prototype of my team that won the first price on the hackathon. Inspired by the OpenStreetMap(OSM), the app intends to serve two purposes: first, to provide a great variety of green maps that help the city planners identify where to plant the new trees. There are many factors to consider when growing trees in urban areas. For example, infrastructures, pollution in the soil, underground water, wildlife, transportation, heat, etc. Obtaining a complete geographical data on these factors became our main technical challenge on the hackathon.

The second aim of Tree Dat is to give citizens the knowledge of Montreal's biodiversity and opportunity to engage in building a green city. Tree Dat app is designed to create an OpenStreetTreeMap (OSTM) of Montreal that requires both the contribution of the city planners and the citizens. It provides the platform for volunteers to help complete the tree profiles and the tree photograph gallery.

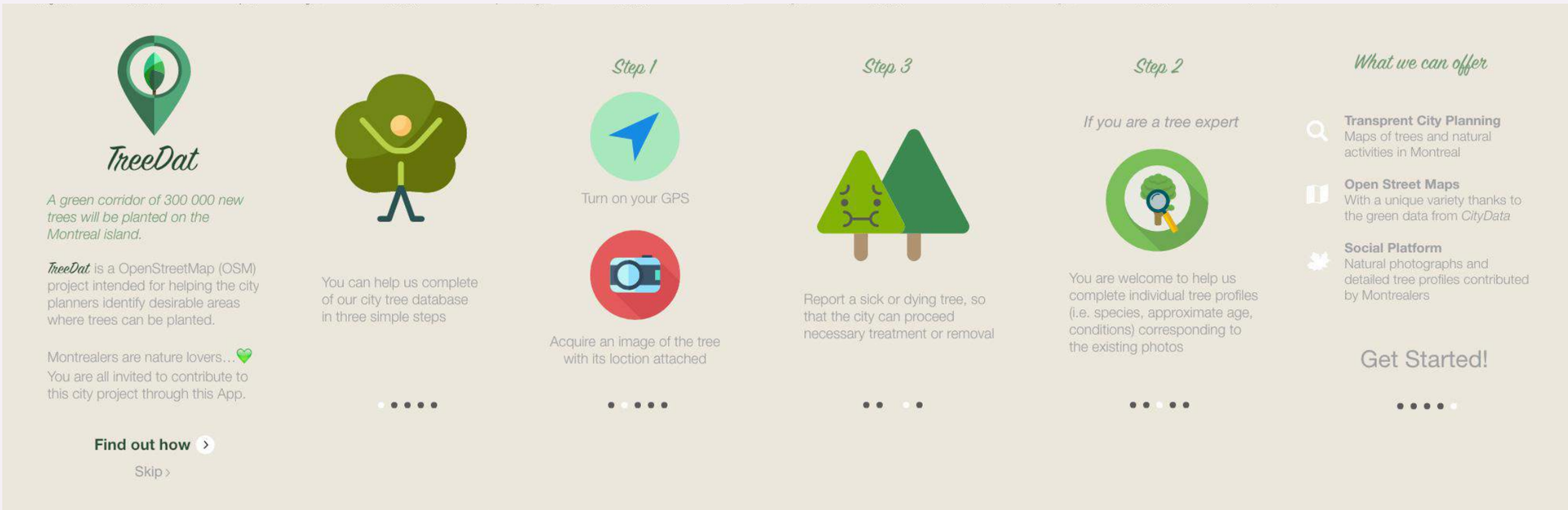
Within the limited time, we created an interactive website that visualized the city's green maps as well as the Tree Dat mobile prototype, which was my main contribution on the hackathon besides data mining.

In this section, I will walk through my design process to create the user interface of the mobile application.

Team photo on Hackcité

REFERENCES:
ICONS https://www.flaticon.com/
DATA https://www.city-data.com/
GEOMAPPING https://carto.com/

#1 Intermediate design sketch for Tree Dat, including the app interface, icons and logo development
#2 Introductory tutorial for first-time users of Tree Dat
#3 Interface of the Tree Dat maps
#4 OSTM search panel of the app
#5 Gallery of tree photograph and tree profiles



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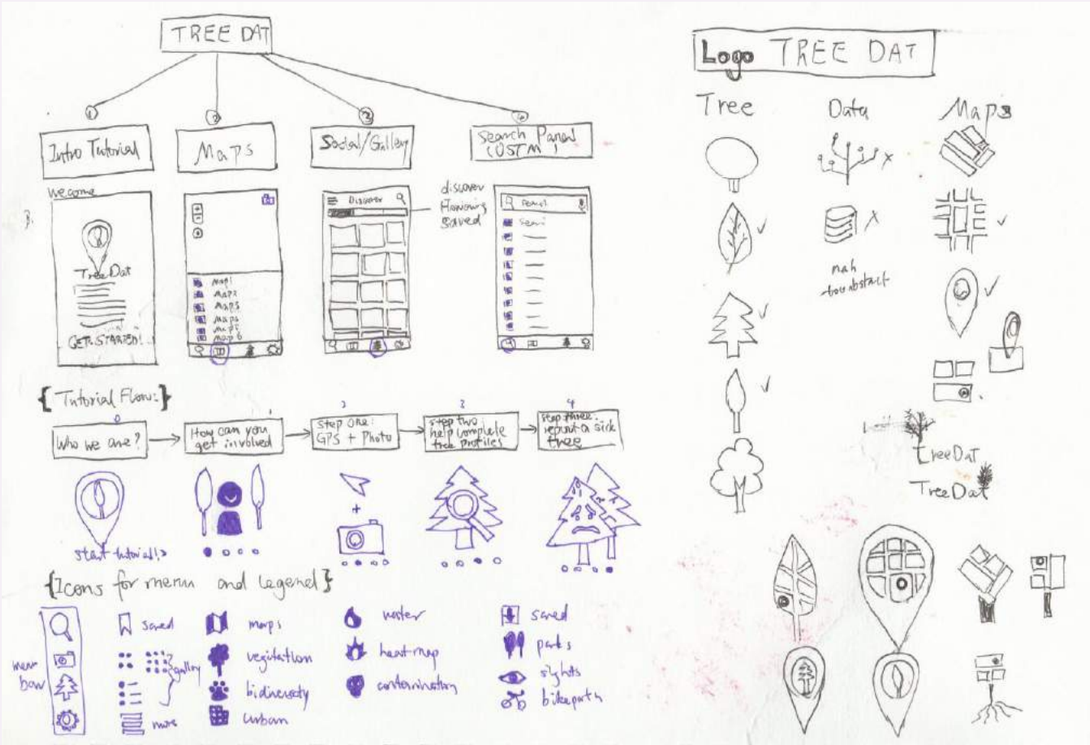

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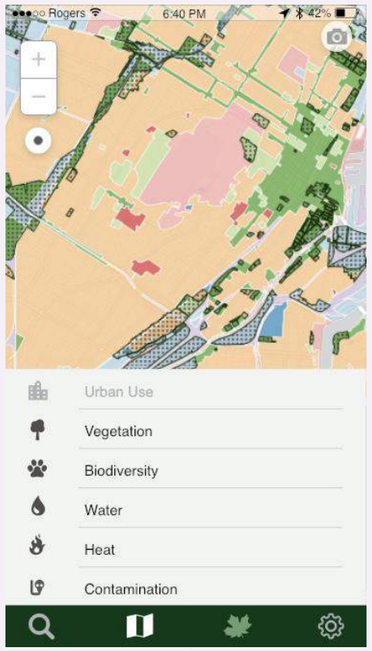

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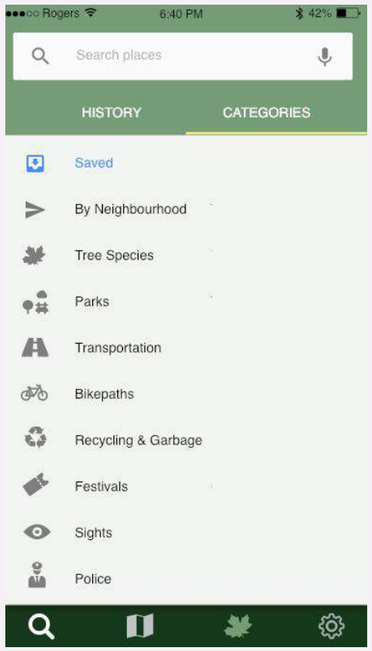

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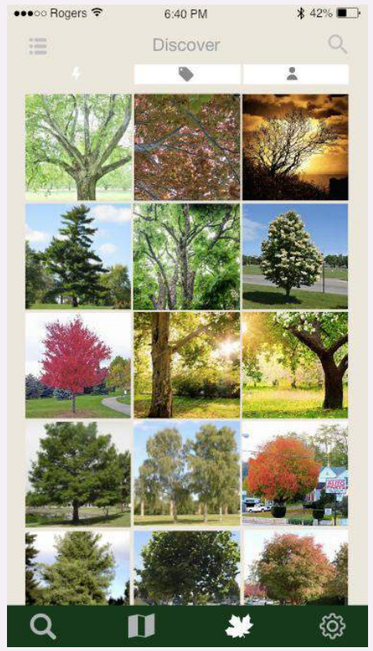


#5

Works from 2011 - 2017

Painting

The art I create falls into two categories, one is rational, like the works displayed in the previous sections that are very purposeful, analytical and even a little bit ego-driven. The works in this and remaining chapters fall into the other category: spontaneous, emotional, and improvisational.

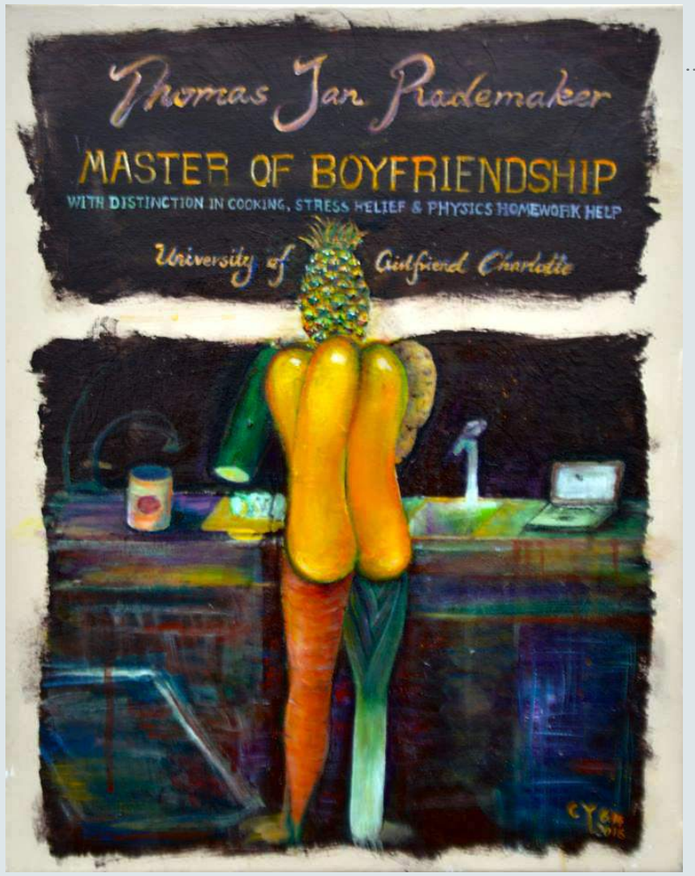
This chapter includes some of my paintings from 2011 to 2016.

#1 2011 *Home*, acrylic painting
#2 2012 Painting of my left and right hands, acrylic
#3 2013 *Mexico*, oil
#4 2014 Self-portrait, acrylic
#5 2015 Valentine's Portrait, oil
#6 2016 *Master's Graduation Gift*, acrylic
#7 2017 A series of watercolour cards. During my backpacking trip to southern China, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, I carried them with me and gave them away to reconnected old friends who reside in one of my destinations, or in return for the kindness and hospitality that I received on my trip

#1 #2 #3 #3 #7

#4

#5



"Art is a guarantee to sanity."

Louise Bourgeois

Meditation

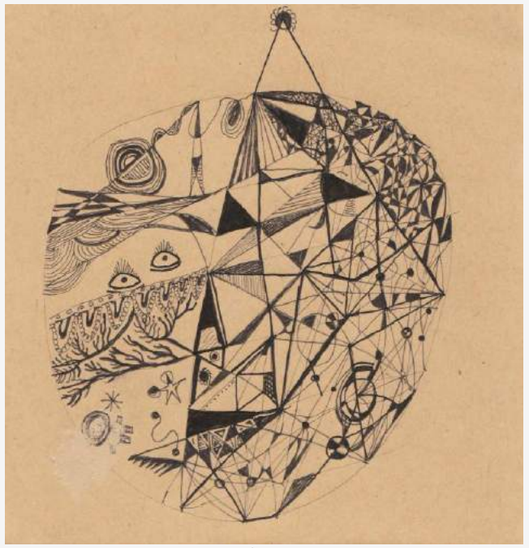
Works from Oct 2016 - Feb 2017

This section includes the art I made with no planning beforehand. Often, the most interesting art comes from "no ideas".

This kind of practice is a way of healing after stress, an escape to the world of freedom and stability, and the connection with the true self.

INSPIRATION

1. http://ctext.org/zhuangzi
2. http://renhang.org/
3. http://joanmiro.com/



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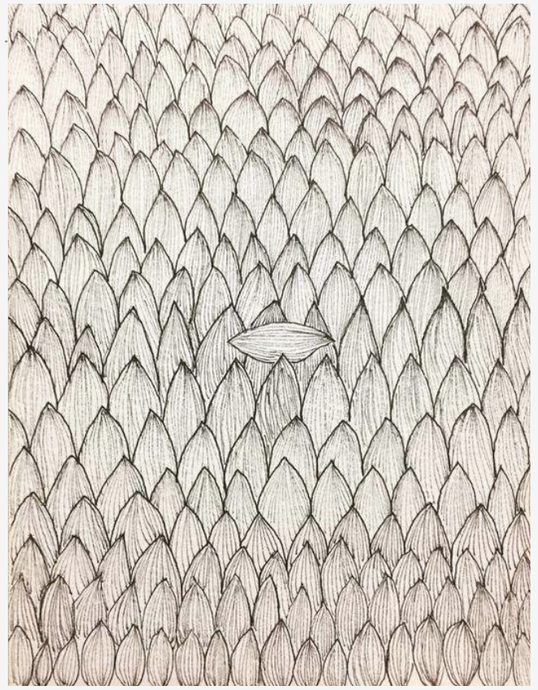

#4

#1 Path to awakening
#2 Inspired by the first chapter of Chuang Tzu, *Wandering Beyond*
#3 'I am not different. I am just horizontal'
#4 In memoriam Ren Hang

Even birds don't want to be caged
Why do people like being stuck in a room
And they laugh at the vagrants

Poem by Ren Hang (translated from the drawing)

Works from 2014-2016

FLICKR:
https://www.flickr.com/qintheory

Photography

Loneliness belongs to photographers. Loneliness makes the photographer a sensible observer to the world around, as the lens distances her from the rest of humanity. For this section, I have chosen the photos of various subjects at different settings that represent my vision and style.

I own a Nikon D7000 which has been my best friend for the past five years, a second-hand AF 50mm f/1.8D lens from Nikon, and a third generation Yongnuo Speedlite. That's all. I am obsessed with night or low light photography, which is a fun challenge to my limited equipment.

#1

#4

#1 *The Royal Family*, Nanling, China 2014
#2 Portrait Photography, *LinkedIn Photoshoot*, 2016
#3 Nature Photography: *The Twelve Apostles, Australia* 2016
#4 *Nova Scotia* 2016
#5 Band photography, Montreal 2016
#6 Bar photography, Montreal 2016

#2

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Stoop Art Jam

Works from Summer 2016

FACEBOOK GROUP:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/stoopart/

Stoop Art Jam was a weekly painting gathering that I organized in my Montreal apartment (yes, with a stoop leading up to my door) in summer 2016. It is a very important project to me and I hope that it restarts and continues rolling some day soon.

This section showcases some selected artworks done by participants of the Stoop Art Jam including myself. Most of them are created by amatures and first-time painters.

Stoop Art Jam started when I threw the first art party in my apartment on June 13th 2016. There were six of us and I had no expectation on how it would turn out. I provided canvases, paint, brushes, space, and music. Some of my friends brought wine and snacks. We jammed in my small living room. It was beautiful to see everyone so centred and deep in art making.

The first jam was extremely successful and everyone wanted to come back. The art jam quickly became a weekly thing and friends kept bringing more friends. The Art Jam welcomed around 10 people each week, which was the limit to my living room capacity and table space. We always had a theme for each week, such as "cat and fire", "blind self-portrait", "painting music", and also freestyle.

Among the regular participants, there are only 3 friends who are art practitioners by hobby or profession. The rest of them are brand-new amateurs who fell in love with making art through the Stoop Art Jam.

"I'm not an artist."
"I can't paint."
"I will just read and watch you guys."
...

My answer to my shy guests is:
"You don't become a painter before you start painting. :) "

Freestyle night at the Stoop, June 13, 2016

#1 Anabel: City
#2 PF: Freestyle
#3 Group photo of my blind self-portrait (big) & the rest of the works done by the Art Jammers
#4 Xiaoxi : Freestyle
#5 Kat: Kat & Fire
#6 Me: Cat & Fire

#4

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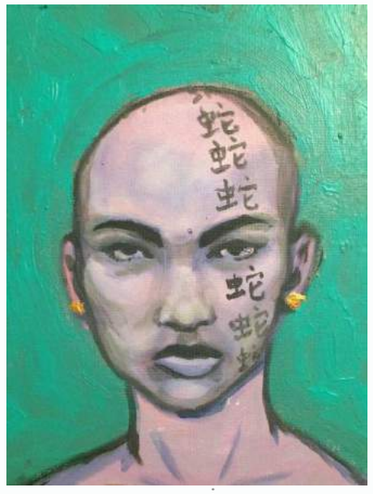
#7 Damien: Blind Self-portrait
#8 Me: Painting Music
#9 Mural of my apartment directed by me and painted by me and many others. Model: Leith and the cat version of him.

#9

#8

#7



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