

missed connections: a pop-up gallery

two. At least for me. The word I keep using to describe the moment is "surreal," like I was in a dream and there was no way it could have been her. But it was. In that window of two seconds, two-week's worth of longing, pain, regret hit me like a truck that never pressed its ^{brakes} ~~brakes~~. The moment she broke my line of sight, the trance was over but the carnage was already done. It was the first time that I



only 15 mos. old, is visiting her 1st museum. she is hungry so first she is going to eat. she loves being around people and



We've all read the articles. The ones with the tragic headlines berating millennials for losing touch with reality and humanity through the rise of the "digital age." They say we've swapped talking for texting, interactions for interfaces, conviction for dependency. Here's one example, an excerpt taken from Sherry Turkle's "Stop Googling. Let's Talk" published on NYTimes last year:

Across generations, technology is implicated in this assault on empathy. We've gotten used to being connected all the time, but we have found ways around conversation — at least from conversation that is open-ended and spontaneous, in which we play with ideas and allow ourselves to be fully present and vulnerable. But it is in this type of conversation — where we learn to make eye contact, to become aware of another person's posture and tone, to comfort one another and respectfully challenge one another — that empathy and intimacy flourish. In these conversations, we learn who we are.

Frankly, we had a hard time buying that Facebook Messenger and Snapchat robbed us of our empathy, intimacy, and self-awareness. We are still human after all.

The way we connect may be *changing*, but we

don't think connection itself is going anywhere.

In an attempt to explore and understand the evolution of human connection in the so-called digital age, we've engaged in a semester-long project to research the most powerful ways people feel life and love as well as test the ways we can foster a space for organic interactions.

Along the way, we realized that the subject of "human connection" is quite poetic, which is why we've decided to share our findings with you all and turn our results into a visual experience.

The way you connect with these pieces, our experiments, and the neighboring viewers that you share this space with, is our final experiment.

We hope you find this exhibit to be a form of catharsis. Or in the very least, have fun!

With Love,
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