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Web Work: A History of Internet Art

This article was one of the readings where I remember how much I actually undermine the power of communication through digital mediums back in the 1990's. Before reading this article, I was ignorant to assume that there was nothing powerful in terms of communications in the art spectrum through the internet. However, not completely denying its involvement in the revolutionary way of base communications through email and websites, I found that this article opened up more of my awareness to this minimal knowledge of the internet I have.

One of the subjects discussed in the article was this idea that internet art, in its prime, was one of those mediums which did not play part of any bureaucracy or marginality. This was a good four years where developing internet artists did not go through filters made by corporations or where they were limited by what they can do; or at least that is the way I understood it. For me, this was really cool just because this was discovered primarily by Vuk Cosic, who opened an email that got scrambled. There is something really enjoyable about the idea that a scrambled email turned into a huge, relevant type of art. All of a sudden, there are artists building website and going crazy with new-end possibilities of cyber communications and nothing official is there to stop them or categorize them from doing what they want to do.

Tying into the subject of being able to freely express oneself through cyber communications, a part of me was in awe by the number female artists who used this platform to their advantage to create feminist movements. A well deserving terminology such as cyberfeminism is among many topics that were discussed and turned cyber. Another part that I found really interesting was using the medium to alter genders and making them believable. I

thought this was interesting considering the very present issue of online dating and getting scammed by people who don't appear to be who they are. This is a question of whether it is moral to appear as someone you are not which is in itself another topic of conversation but very interestingly enough, brought up here as a form of communication.

Overall, I really appreciate this article for informing me of the medium that had an impact in the 90's the same way it has a digital impact presently. It is really cool to see that we are constantly looking for new ways to integrate internet art as well as other types of analogue and digital arts to create something new.