Project name: Project +49 157 362 961 96

Category: Installation

Artist(s): Marcelina Wellmer

Abstract
Project +49 15736296196 is a participative multimedia installation. It includes a drawing machine (DIY plotter) with amplified sounds, SMS service and a series of written drawings. The work plays with the fragility of digital information and the interaction between mind and machine. The visual message depends on human factors intimately involved with electronic devices. The artist creates initial parameters, leaving most of the work to be processed by a human random factor.

Background
Project +49 157 362 961 96 (2017) is an interactive installation operating within the complex environment of telematic and mobile communication, on the verge of generative art and e-literature, with some features of a kinetic sound-sculpture.

Detailed Description
Sending a text message to the provided phone number initiates data processing, while the customized software and plotter hardware turn each SMS into a line of a manuscript. The outcome of the plotter’s movement imitates a human handwriting, although the written contents is neither imitated, nor artificial. It is an upshot of participants’ voluntary contribution. While the collaboratively created text as a whole, is an outcome of a random flow of messages, the process reveals the hidden curriculum of turning a raw thought into a coherent verbal statement. During the writing process, the plotter emits sound, reminding of the computer-mediated communication (CMC) taking place. Operating within the given affordances, it evokes not an artificial, but rather a collective intelligence contributed by both human and software-based interaction.

Motivation
The long-term character of Project +49 157 362 961 96 will open the possibility to have a mindful look into the mood of the contemporary society – through the time we will get in touch with people’s thoughts, needs, wishes, hopes, jokes, and any other statements they are volunteering around the earth. It’s a materialisation of digital, fragile, intimate information; an archive of today times human state of mind.

Project +49 157 362 961 96 uses a DIY 2D plotter, a pen and DIY control box to convert SMS messages into a text on paper. The messages are completely anonymous – the program deletes all local identification information (phone numbers, reception date and time) as soon as it starts processing the message. The whole process is fully automated: a GSM modem is receiving the SMS and this triggers a sequence of technological events inside the machine. After a few seconds the plotter starts to scribe the message on a sheet of paper. This drawing machine is fitted with magnetic contact microphone which amplify the micro
sound of the machine to make the writing process more tangible. A small speaker is used for the sound reproduction.

**How is technology used in the project**
The idea may seem to reach back to the pioneering experiments in cyberarts, there is a contemporary approach of critical engineering and analysis of a creative process. While it examines the human-computer interaction (HCI) paradigm, the project is focused on re-inventing rudiments of communication process through reinterpretating technology by questioning its primary characteristics.

**Hardware:**
* makeblock plotter 2.0
* Raspberry Pi 3 running Raspbian
* Arduino Uno and a Protoneer grbl shield
* Arduino Nano and self-made interfaces
* AdaFruit FONA 808 board

**Software:**
* gammu, inkscape, grbl, bCNC
* a mixture of self-written Bash and Python scripts
  (in cooperation with Horia Andrei)
Audience experience

In the project I want to afford the public to express own free thoughts to the extern word just in few words. The absence of directly human being and the automatisation of the processes is a mark of our 0.3 media times and refer to anonymous comments and posts on different websites. It’s a collective intimacy, a random poetry. In this process everybody is invited to create the final “artwork”.
The term "project" contained in the work title indicates that this is a process whose outcome is dependent on the participants.

https://vimeo.com/247109163

Bio

Marcelina Wellmer is operating at the edge of installation, photography, video and sound. Her works are dealing with the relation of humans and digital interferences, crossing the border from analog to digital and vice versa. Part of her creation is to play with those edges of media and to amplify their very own characteristics. In the act of transformation information itself isn’t destroyed. In an erroneous process of encoding and decoding, new perspectives get revealed.

Marcelina Wellmer was born in Poland, since 2006 lives and works in Berlin. She graduate in video and drawing on Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan/Poland; currently she is a PhD fellow in New Media Class at Academy of Fine Arts in Szczecin/Poland. Marcelina Wellmer works were showed in several exhibitions, conferences and festivals in Europa, Australia, Canada, USA and Japan. Some of her most important shows include: Centre de Design de l’UQAM / Transmediale Haus Kulturen der Welt /Berlin/Germany, ISEA2015/Vancouver/ Canada, Institut for Cultural Inquiry/Berlin, Science Gallery Dublin & Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig/ Germany, Queensland University of Technology /Australia. She was attending artists residencies in Japan, Spain, Austria, Estonia, Poland and got realisations and travel grants from institutions like City of Warsaw, Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, Governing Mayor of Berlin – Senate Chancellery Berlin, Polish Culture Institut IAM / Warsaw.