

Kunstuniversität Linz

Institut für Kulturwissenschaft
PhD Studium

Crowd and Art
oder „die Anderen“ im Kontext der Netz-Kunst

Band 1: Theoretische Auseinandersetzung zum Thema
Band 2: My Turked Ideas – 98 Beiträge von ‘den Anderen’

Manuela Naveau
Dissertation
zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades

PhD

Betreut von:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Thomas Macho
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christa Sommerer

Approbiert am:

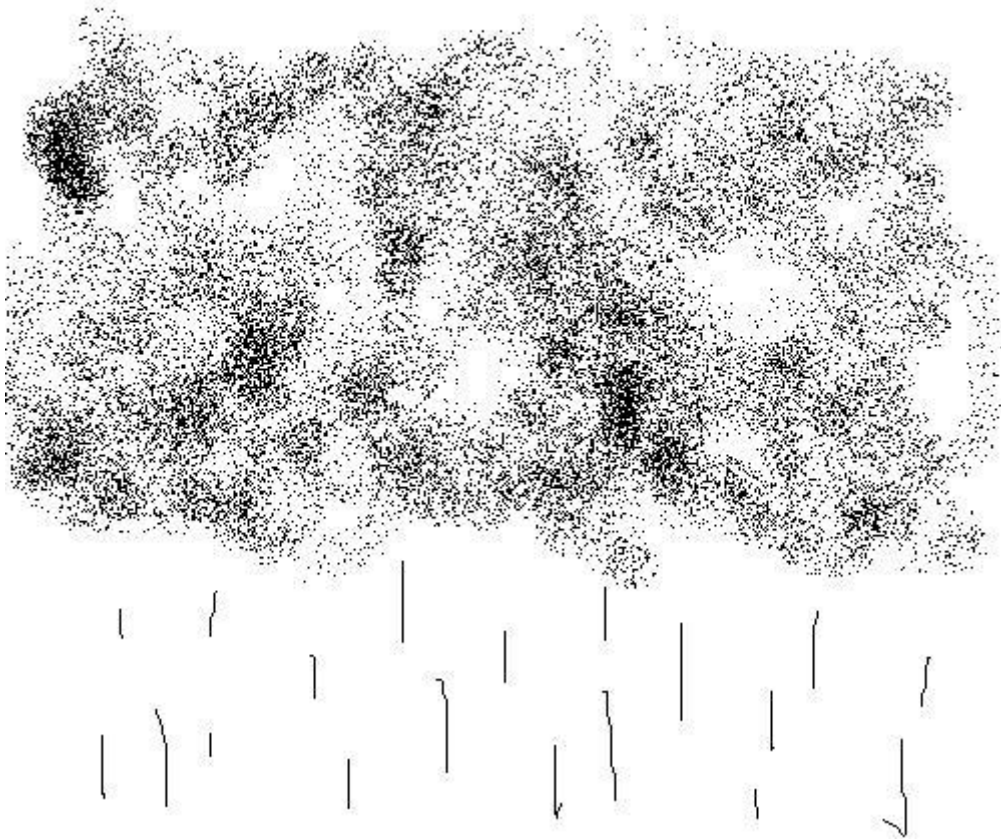
Linz, 2015

Band 2: *My Turked Ideas* – 98 Beiträge von „den Anderen“

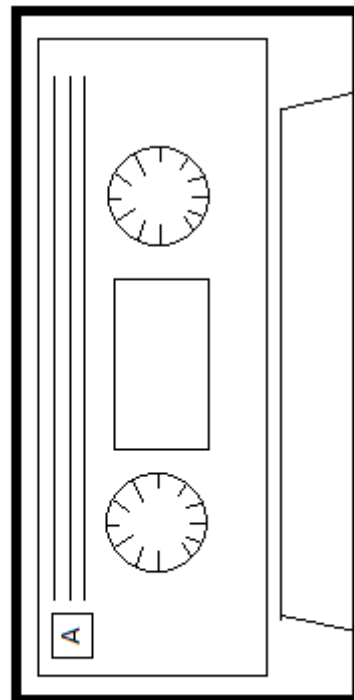
Manuela Naveau erkaufte sich im Zeitraum Dezember 2013 bis Juli 2014 über Amazon Mechanical Turk hundert Ideen für künstlerische Arbeiten zum Thema „Crowd Art“. Da zwei Beiträge nicht geöffnet werden konnten, stellt sie 98 Ideen zur freien Entnahme in Ausstellungen zur Verfügung und fragt, wer denn nun eigentlich das Kunstwerk sein eigen nennen darf. Diese Form der Diskurs-Ausstellung versucht verstärkt mit kunstfernen Zielgruppen in Kontakt zu treten, um deren Eindrücke und Erfahrungen in die Forschungsprojekte der Künstlerin aufzunehmen. Sie hinterfragt Kunst und ihr Publikum in einer vernetzten, digitalen Realität.

Eine ausführliche Beschreibung und Analyse des Projektes *My Turked Ideas* ist im Band 1 auf Seite 232 zu finden.

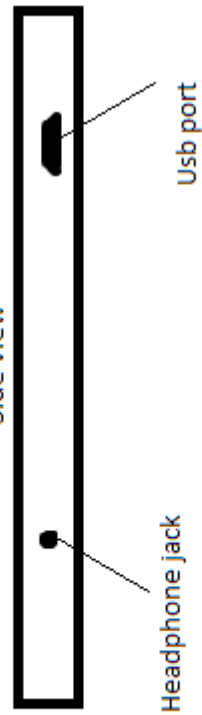
title: rainstorm
description: a simple cloud with rain streaks
age: 21
gender: male



Front View



Side view



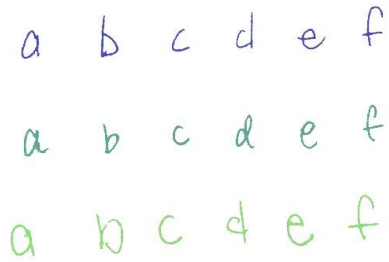
Idea:

A cassette tape that is used like an ipod.
Mixes the old with the new for that trendy
style hipsters adore.

Created by: 22 year Old Female

How people draw letters:

I'm just using lowercase for the example:



Now take on the letters and lay them on top of each other:



Make sure that no matter how big or small someone writes their letters, they can be made to lay on top of each other within a certain determined size.

Create program that determines averages.

Result: Average style of the way people draw all the letters of the alphabet?

I would imagine you could do it for different languages?

Benefit:

Universally easiest font to read?

Maybe just cool?

Most fun hit I've done!

Darren

A Pattern Mosaic: The Gaea Prism Project

By: David Raphael

Age: 31

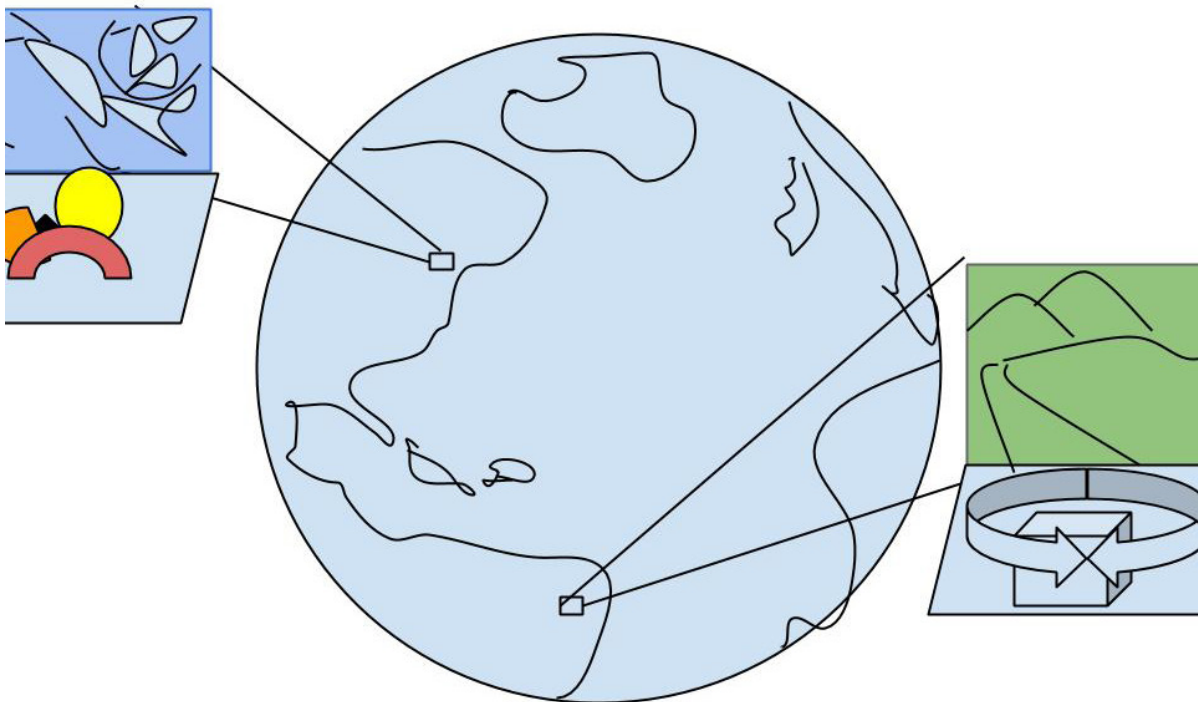
Gender: Male

a 3d interactive graphic of Earth (Like a smaller version of google earth) with zoomable/clickable points that show works of visual art

from a thousand professional artists with many different styles, from impressionistic and neo-baroque to comic book and graffiti art,

as well as complimentary works from one thousand lay people who each of these pros gave a short tutoring session.

Each artist would have made a special and unique contribution to the project having to do with their location in time and place in some way.



"Music Throughout History"

Age 19 Female

The crowd starts begins with people from the present time, and will have general characteristics of modern young people at concerts or events. Their characteristics will include having smart phones that will be used as "lighters", many of them perhaps taking videos. Their clothes will be modern and perhaps hipster like. As the crowd goes back so does the "time era" which the people appear to be from. It goes to the 90s, where people will be wearing that style and using older cameras. 80s they will have typical "rock" hair, clothing, and actual lighters used. In the 70s they will be more "hippie" like, and in the 60s and 50s they will become more of the "Elvis" style of fans. Even further back than this, it will be people in the "jazz age" dressed in flapper costumes and beyond this will be Victorian style dress as if they are going to a classical concert. It will show the progression of music culture throughout time as well as a broad look at how technology has affected concerts. If this were to be a video, the image would start in the back with classical music and as it moved forward the score would blend into the next of each different genre of music, ending with electronic music or dub step.



Title: CHAIN MAIL



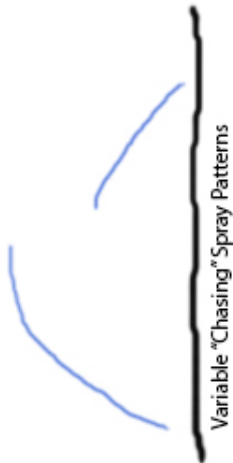
Idea: Stacks of junk mail, both physical and electronic, as a visual representation on the inescapability of materialism.

34 / Female



Arduino Color Fountain Installation

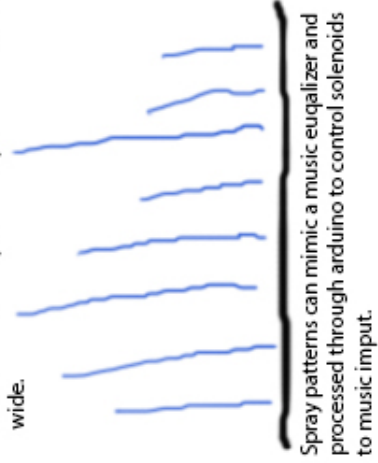
Male
18 yrs old



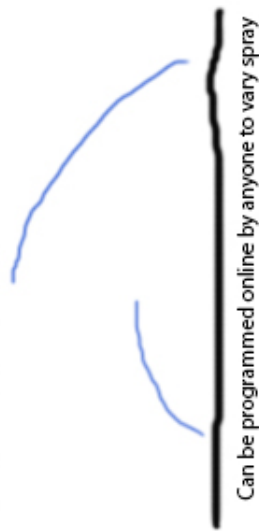
Variable "Chasing" Spray Patterns



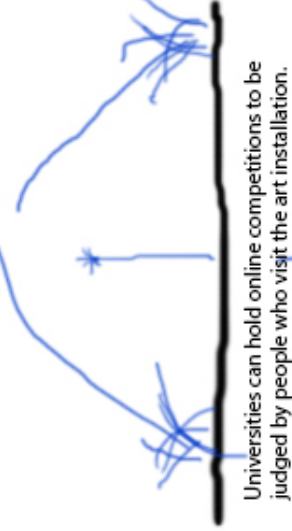
More expansive and intricate fountain shows can be commissioned by University students world-wide.



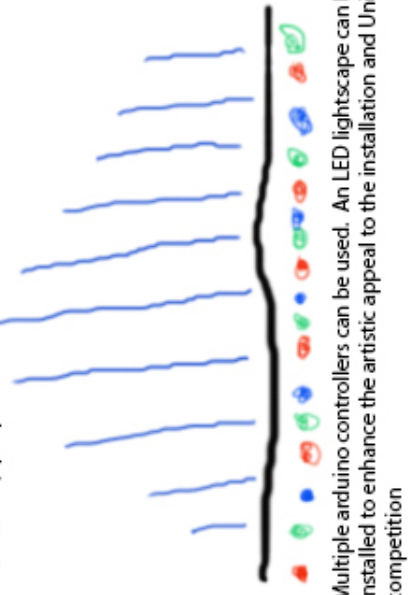
Spray patterns can mimic a music equalizer and processed through arduino to control solenoids to music input.



Can be programmed online by anyone to vary spray



Universities can hold online competitions to be judged by people who visit the art installation.



Multiple arduino controllers can be used. An LED lightscape can be installed to enhance the artistic appeal to the installation and Uni competition

Stop Air Pollution/Global Warming !

Join the Global effort to save our planet from the ravages of excessive, accumulated fossil fuel emissions. Show your support by expressing YOURSELF to bring attentiuon to this cause .
We need an OUTCRY for action-NOW !!!

Send your creations [HERE](#) Your-paintings, graphic art, and/or pictures of :
your sculptures, graffitti, FLASH MOB, whatever, that shows the need NOW to stop global warming
by reducing/eliminating using fossil fuels.

I am a 28 Year old Male, my MTurk ID is A1JAOEK2BBMN76. My proposal for the Crowdsourcing art project is a multi-genre poem, which would utilize words, and symbols.

My poem is called "Silver Gourde" here is an initial rough draft of it:

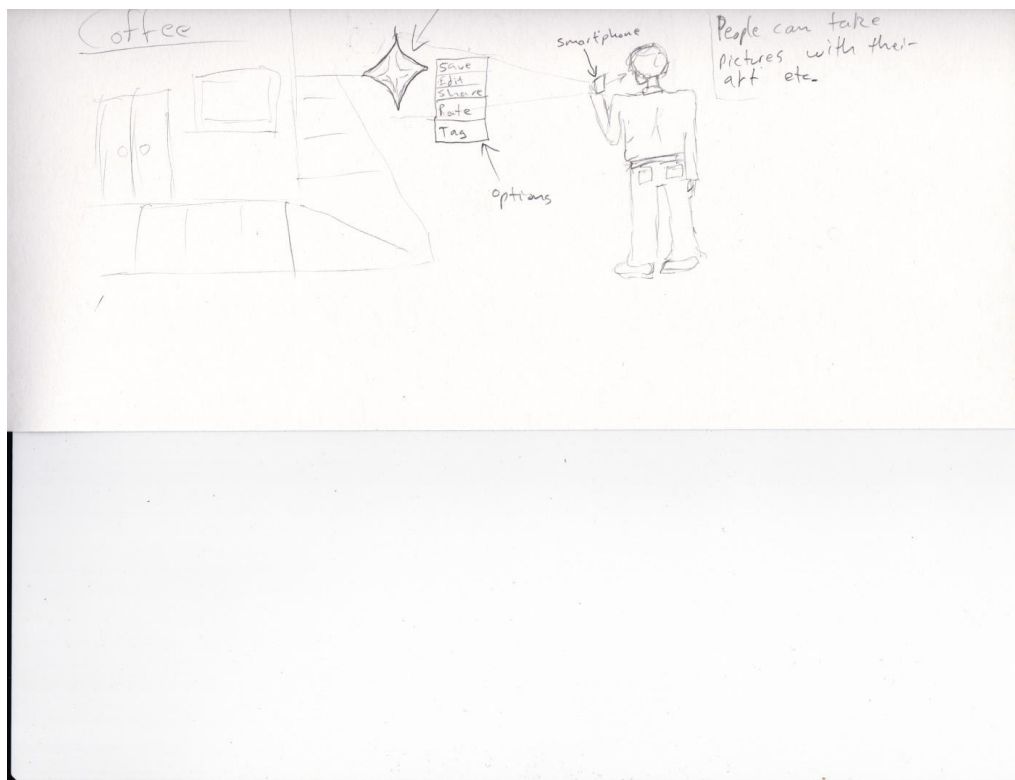
\$SILVER GOURDE\$

It was a warm summer afternoon in Pétion-Ville, I recall; my stomach gnawed with the pains of hunger,
for the icebox was empty today; but my pocket contained a plethora of \$Gourdes\$.

For the rest of the poem I will talk about the ultimate pointlessness of money, which the Gourde (Haiti's official currency represents).

Male, 20

Crowd Art can be greatly enhanced by using Augmented Reality. Every smartphone can easily be converted into a tool for observing and editing AR images with the quick download of an app. Using such technology we can easily share and edit images and 3D AR models virtually anywhere. Imagine being able to see artwork everywhere you go by simply looking at the world through your phone. And imagine being able to add your own artistic touch! Should a Crowd Art Project invest in this idea they would change the way we see art forever!

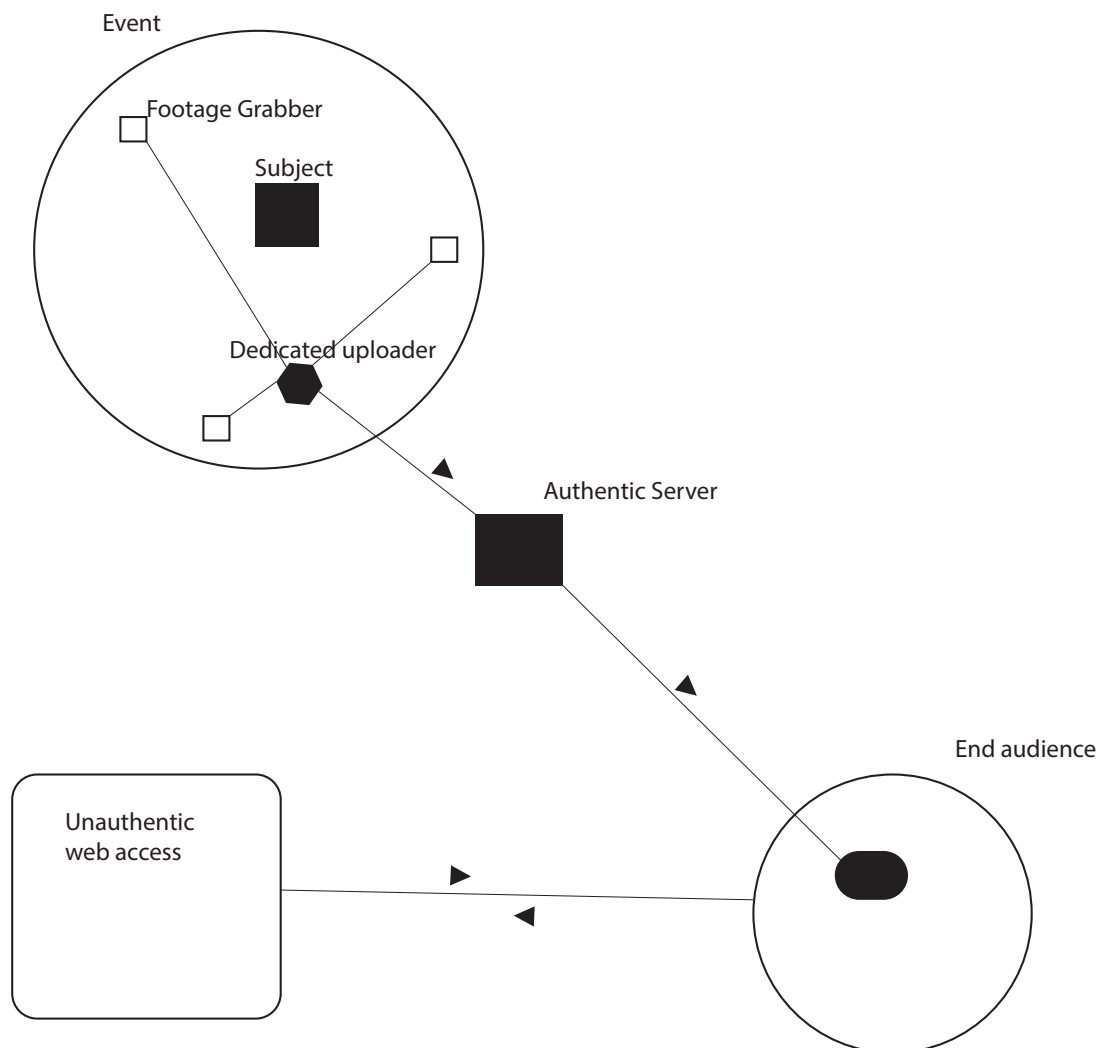


The Warren

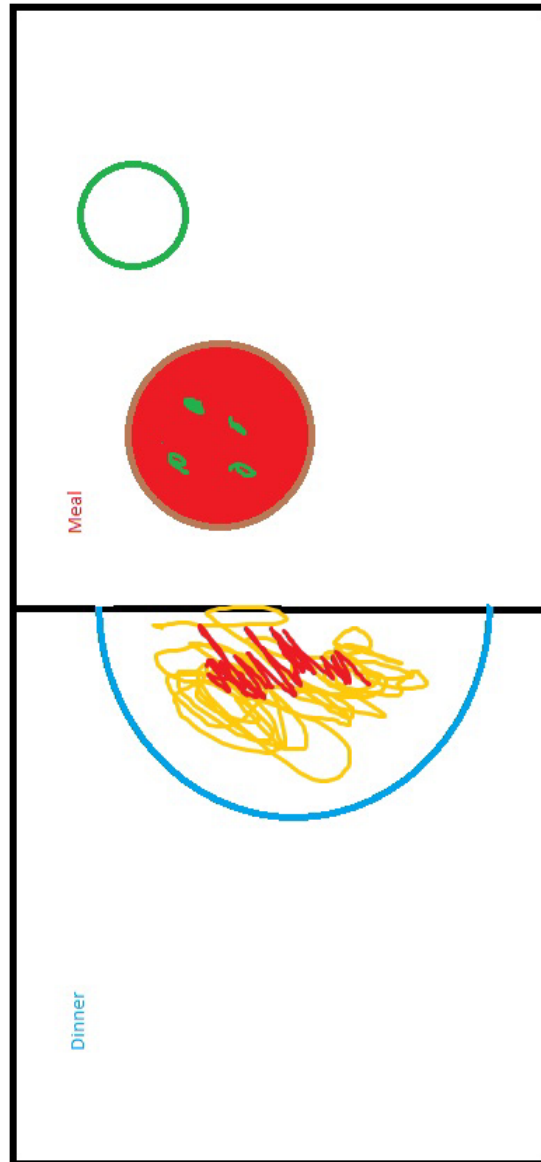
Gender: Male

Age: 37

The concept is reliable media transfer and retrieval via the web with a concentration on smart phones or relative devices. What if there were to be a system where phones or other devices could capture a moment and stream it without interference? A system where the original footage is secured and unaltered precisely to the frame and as such its authenticity could not be challenged? Such a system would require checks and balances and fairly open ended accessibility. The problem lies within the implementers of this system, but the system is absolutely needed at this point in human history.



Have people be given similar, but different drawing prompts. (I.e., 'dinner' and 'meal') Each one creates a half of the drawing



Crowd Art Project

Tina Ross Age 56

A crowd quilt to which people contribute pictures of something meaningful within their group of friends or just for a stated subject or interest group (children, pets, hobbies, remembrances, etc) in a social media site. The quilt could be used, for example, in FaceBook type settings to build personal quilts to be housed on each person's pages, or in blogs, etc. They could also be customized in terms of where each square is placed, whether the quilt is "antiqued" or turned into black-and-white (etc), and could identify each contributor via a roll-over link.

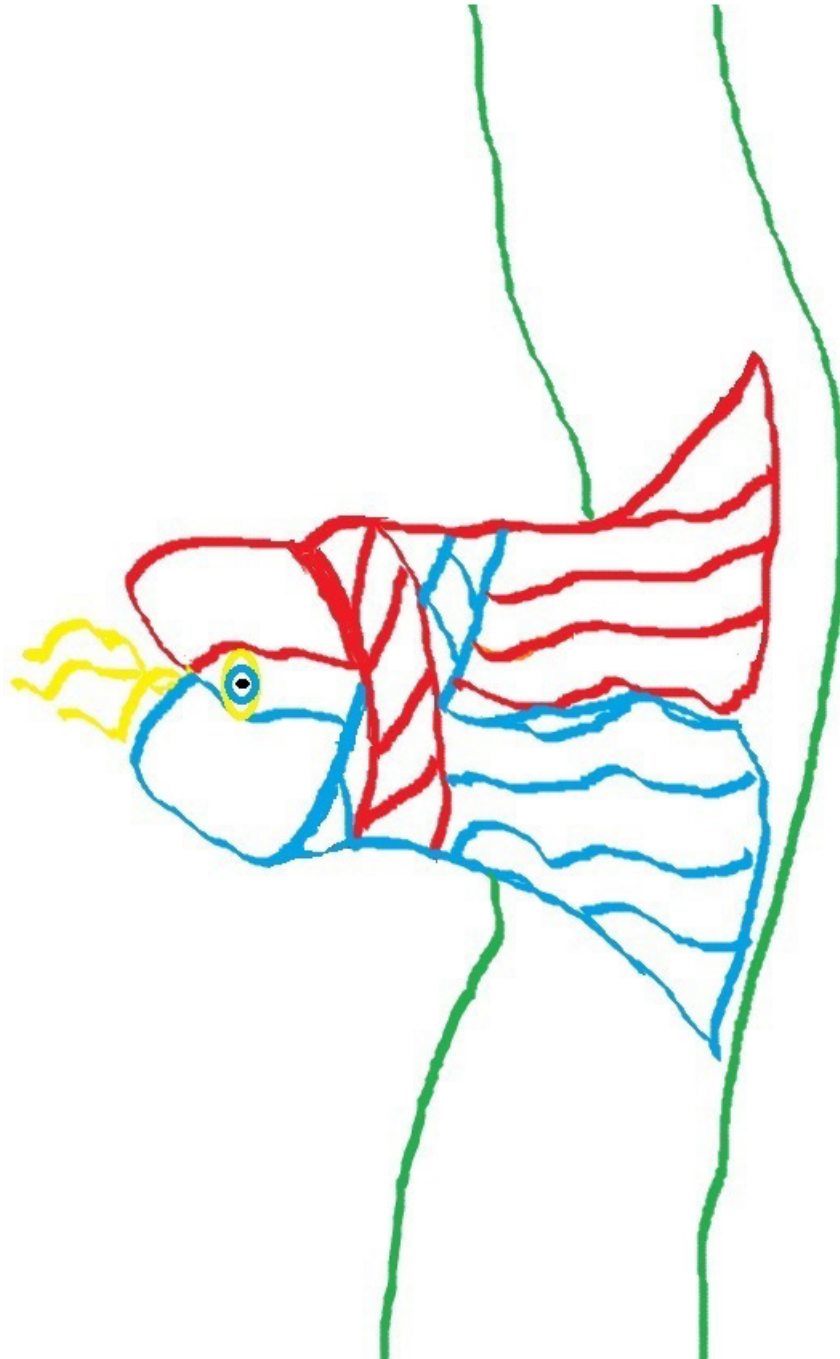


I am 26 years old and this is my depiction of Crowd art.

My design depicts two individuals exchanging currency for artwork over the internet. I have titled this masterpiece "Crowd Art in the Digital Age"

Thank you!

[illegible]



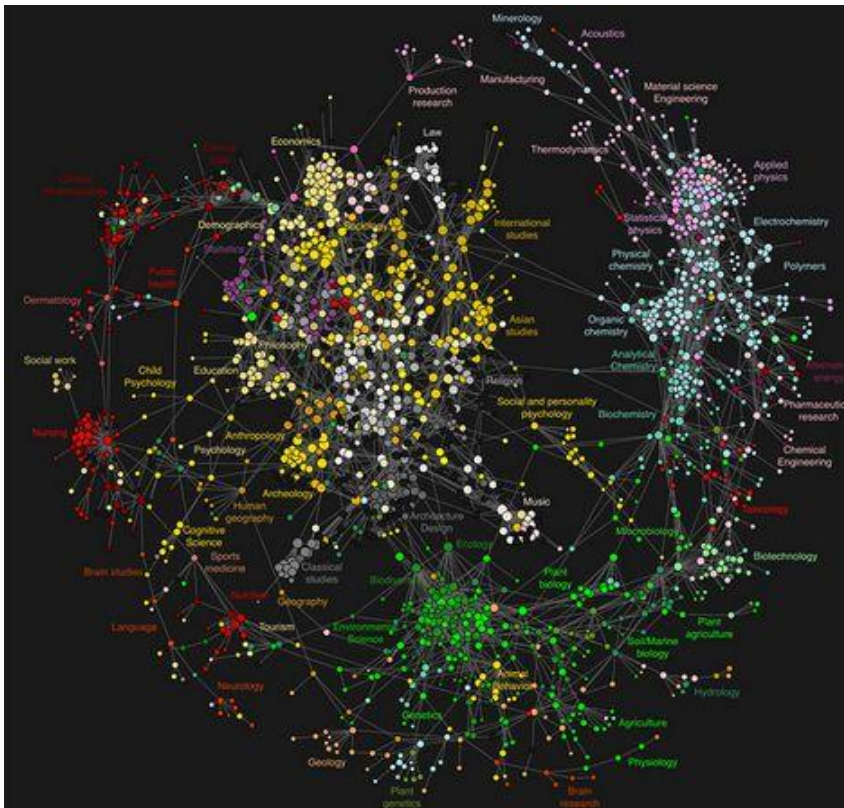
Eye to Eye

Imagine for a moment, lending your mind to nothing but peace, and how man can achieve it. Picture it in your mind, study it. Using only Natural Earth shades, primary lighting, and a maximum of 7 core elements, and draw out what you pictured. You must include one common element, an eye. Any color or shape is fine. All submissions must be your original work. All submissions will be checked for copy, clips or plagiarism.

I am 43 :)

Title: Globalization and Transformation

During last few decades, the era of globalization has transformed the world with improved techniques in mass production and mass communication techniques. A detailed view of such Transformation can be visualized as shown in below image.



Age 52, Gender Female

Christmas Collage.

This would be a collage of the best moment of everyone's Christmas each year. People would voluntarily include photos.



Collaborative Pixel Art

Have each block labeled with a number. This reference would be internal only, and not shared with the crowd.

Sample of Numbered Grid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100...

Create sections for each color palette group (Blues, Yellows, Grey/Blacks, Reds, etc..)

EX: All the numbers in the above cloud are Blues

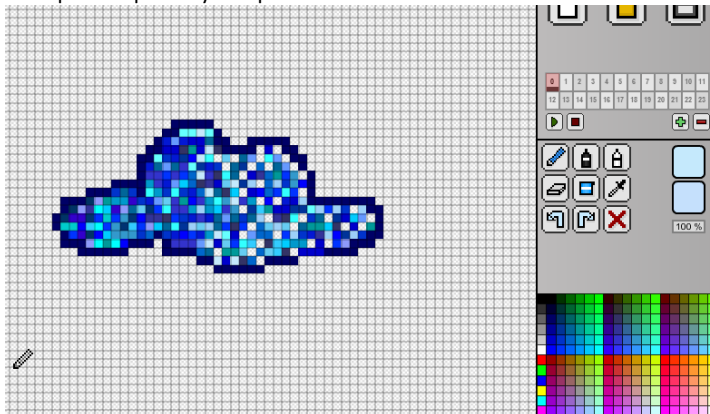
For a large picture, randomly assign two numbers from each color group to each artist. Display color options for them to select from. This should be done for each color group.

EX: Crowd Member A is assigned 23 and 46.

Blues to select from:



Example of a partially completed Blue section



FEMALE 37 MTURK ID: A2MG7AHPXYGJF3

DESCRIPTION:

Using multimedia platforms to callaborativly illustrate across multiracial / international boundaries the common concepts of humanhood: e.g. family, peace, love, society

SKETCH: (commercial format)

Have cameras angle in on different screenshots of multiracial individuals using a particular website or cloud based application, while skyping or something where they're looking (like a splitscreen where one side has about 3 or 4 people) and talking together and working on some appropbriate activity(such as a student group putting together a project (about?)).

Male, age 33 mturk id AJYA9RRGU4I9X

Frozen (2014 Movie) Chibi Characters

I decided to try to make realistic looking caricatures of the Frozen characters.

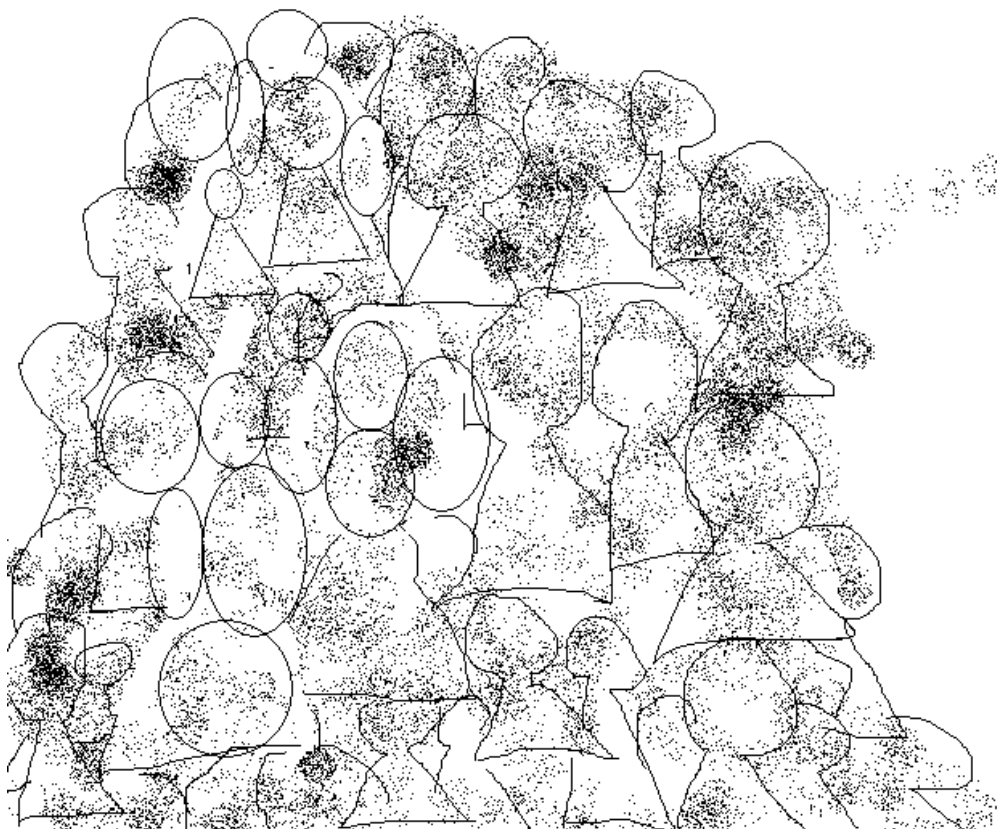


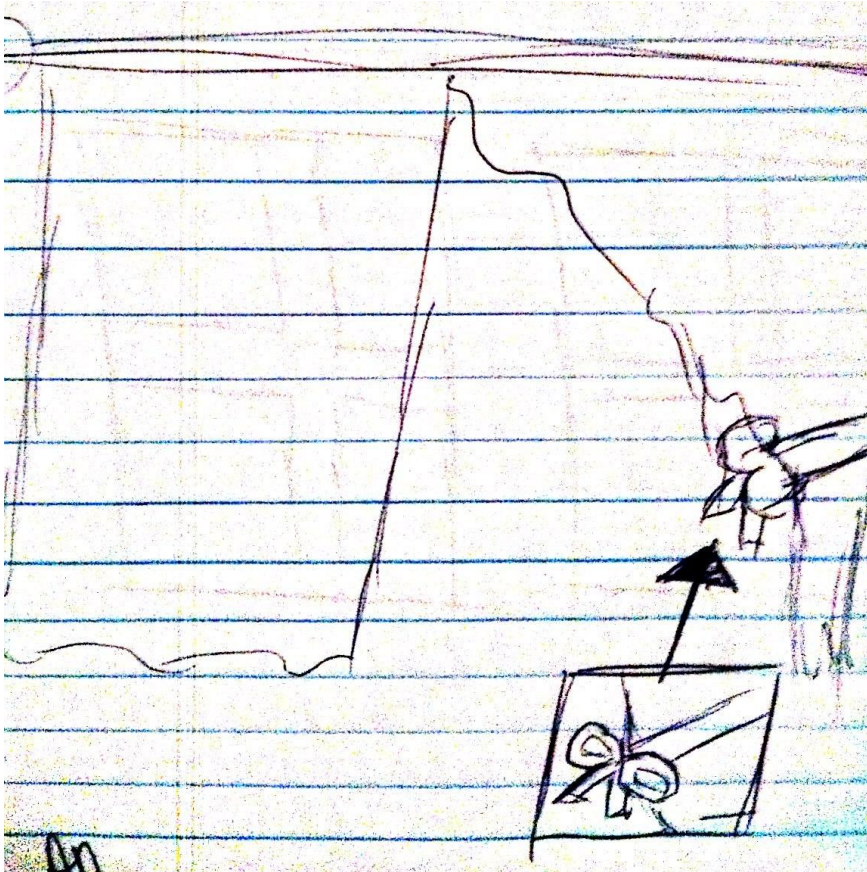
Female, 19 years of age

TITLE: Circle Heads

Description: A drawing of multiple heads without bodies and a few heads with bodies. Image will be a painting based in watercolors. This painting will represent a degree of separation between our bodies and minds, and viewers can infer the meaning of this symbolism.

I am MALE, 22 Years Old





Age: 23 Gender: Female

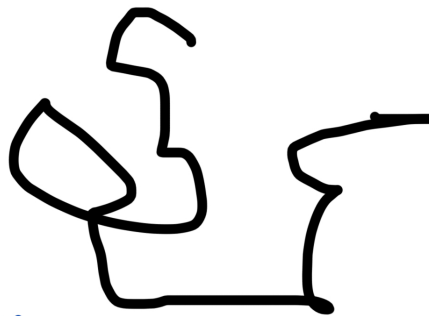
My idea is a curtain tie that can be attached to the curtain to hold it back. The tie can be different colors to match the curtain or be customized to match.

Crowd Art Project Idea

The possibilities of Crowd Art are seemingly endless. The cloud allows us to collaborate with people from all over the world. This concept brings to mind an activity my friends and I used to enjoy while in middle school. I am hold a degree in Art, and have been very artistic my entire life. My best friend in school used to draw random shapes in my notebook, and watch as I used these shapes and transformed them into intricate pictures. The challenge was trying to turn these shapes into something that didn't look like it had began as a scribble. I can imagine this activity transformed into a collaborative Crowd Art activity. Perhaps one person could draw a scribble, and the next user is challenged to make this random shape into a work of art. Then after submitting their work, they must draw a scribble for the next user. These works of art could be displayed online next to their corresponding scribbles for people to admire. Another variation to this could be to start users with one standard scribbled shape. This shape could be periodically changed, or left the same. It would be an interesting project to see what a large group of people did with the same shape, and to see the variations of artistic vision.

By: Shaina
27 year old woman from Alabama
Mechanical Turk ID:
AZGQ8BFH39O24

EXAMPLE >>



From a scribble to...

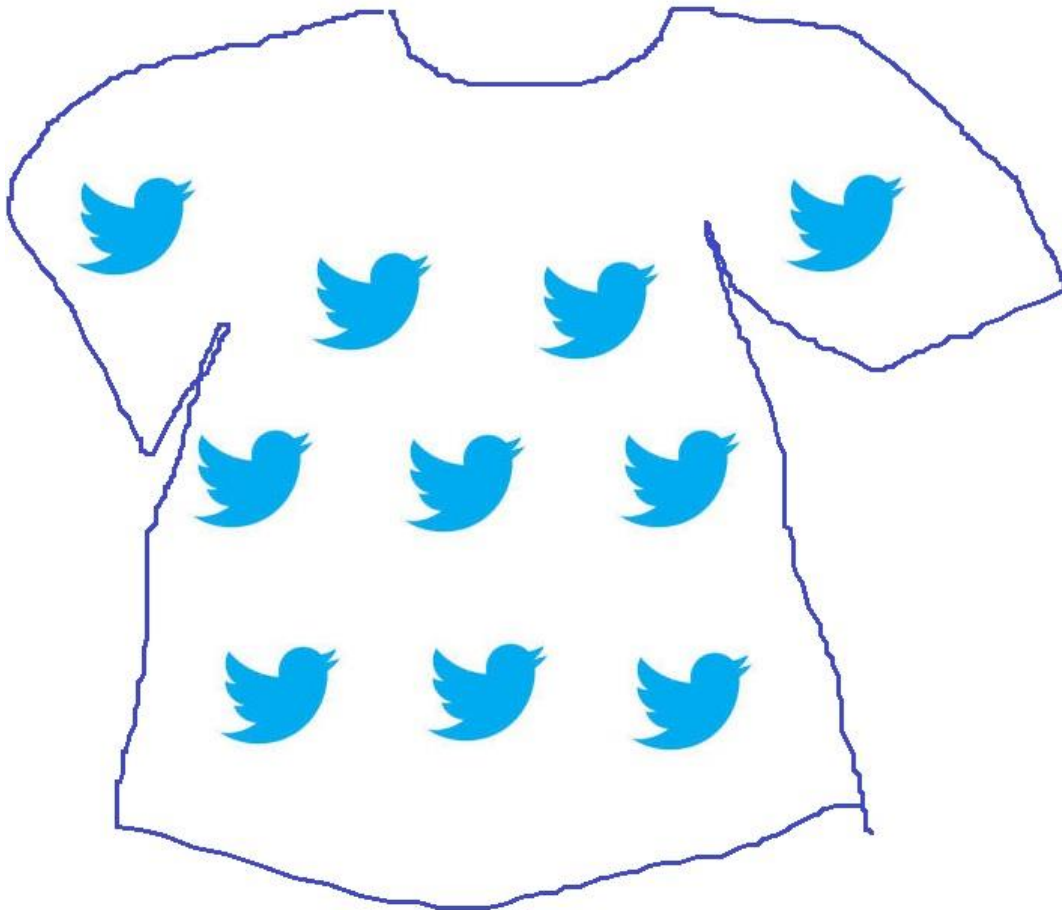
a gardener with his giant prized carrot...





This is a live-twitter-feed Tshirt (by AFI4N8H1DLQHF, age 47 Female)

- Media savvy folk could post a hashtag, wear shirt, other members of the crowd could have their tweets viewed live on the shirt by posting using that hashtag
- Great for wearing during live events (conferences, TV appearances, travel, etc.), and way more interesting than watching live tweets flit by on a monitor or screen scroll
- Reflects current trends – the crowd's use will dictate what appears, and the most popular/frequent tweets and pictures/art will dominate





Home is Where it Begins

Above is an art of earth animation that I created not so long ago. It comprises of a black background fills with stars that contrasts the color reflections of earth. Although this picture is different from any other crowd arts, it is a digital distribution of personalization. There are many paintings of earth I believe this artwork represents how earth looks today. Due to the discovery of electricity, the world is light up throughout the night and you can see the mass production of civilization and what areas are civilized or not.

Age 24 male

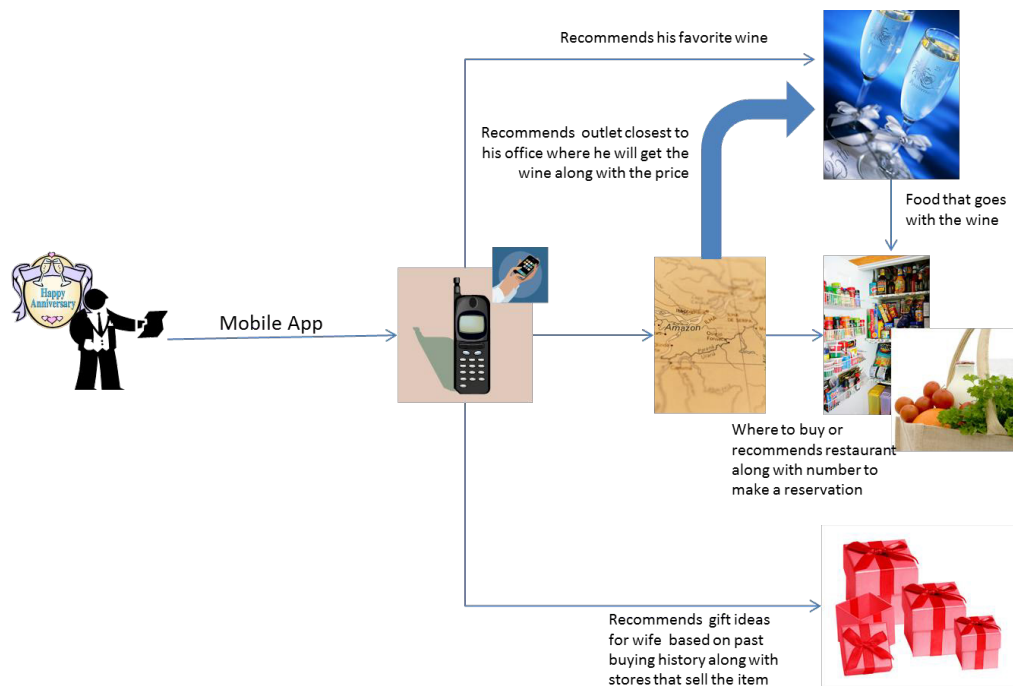
Diego Torres (18 yo)

My idea for Crowd Art would be a medium where people can share their self-portraits. Collections are always very popular and this one would work for several reasons. It'd be interesting to see all of the different styles that would come in themed by mediums, cultures, and races and for users it could be like a timeline where they could see how they portrayed themselves at one point in time and compare it to another. The picture I included is of the self-portrait that I would submit to the collection.



Personal Shopper Mobility Application

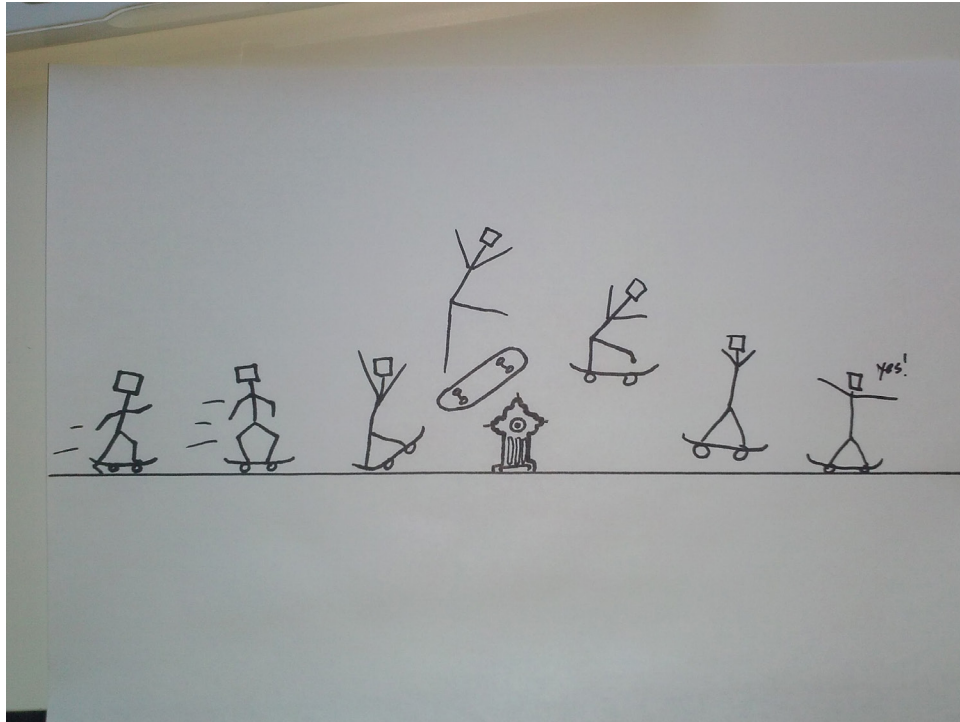
Tom is a 30 year old banker, busy lifestyle, married. Today is Tom's wedding anniversary & he plans to surprise his wife with a gift & dinner. Being a busy executive he doesn't have time to go to various shops & chose things. He has a mobile app on his phone. The app has his wedding anniversary set in , recommends stores near his office that has his choice of wine, recommends food that would go with the wine & where to get it from. Based on his past purchase history recommends a gift for his wife.



Sunlight 360

Take a set of photos (or 20 second videos?) and assemble them into a video montage that creates the illusion that the sun is standing still as locations from around the planet flash underneath. Each “shot” would (1) be taken at a different degree of longitude (2) at noon (3) within the same range of latitude (4) with the camera aimed due north or south (5) include two people in the shot waving at the camera (6) holding a sign with the local degree & place name. Oceans would be handled by people on ships.

Male, Age 51



Blockhead flipping a fire hydrant

This is a drawing of a kid with a blockhead. The kid is constantly told that he can't do things because he is just a blockhead. He wants to do so much more. He wants to prove it to himself that he can do what he sets his blockhead to do. He envisions kickflipping the fire hydrant outside of his house. Here he is doing what he always knew he could.

Male
29 years old

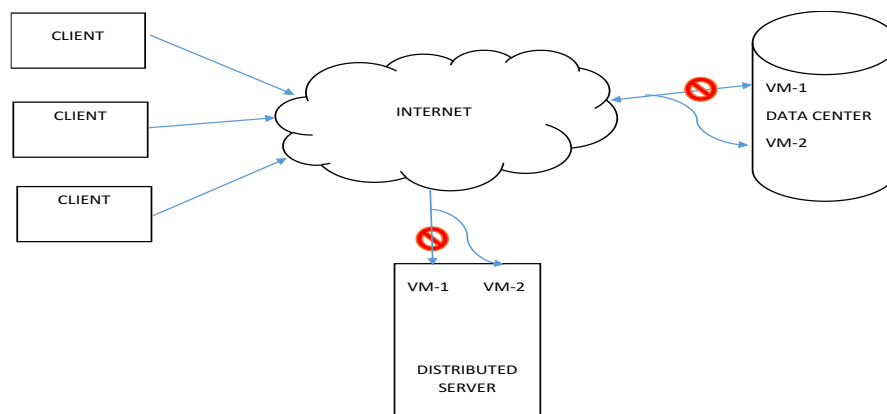
My idea for a Crowd Art project would serve as both art and inspiration for everyone involved. It would start with taking a “selfie” picture of yourself and uploading it to a website along with a list of keywords you associate with yourself and also a description of what you WANT to be. When you submit your picture and profile, the database would be searched to find someone who has the attributes you want and show you what THEY want to be. It would show that no matter how you look, the grass is always greener on the other side.



Improving Fault tolerance in Virtual Machine Based Cloud Infrastructure

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Cloud Computing is a style of Computing where service is provided across the internet using different models. Fault tolerance is a major concern to guarantee availability and reliability of critical services as well as application execution. In this project work, I propose a model to analyze how system tolerates the faults and make decision on the basics of reliability of the processing nodes , i.e. Virtual machines. If a virtual machine manages to produce a correct result within the time limit, its reliability increases. And if it fails to produce the result within time or correct result, its reliability decreases. If the node continues to fail, it is removed, and a new node is added. There is also a minimum reliability level. If any processing node does not achieve that level, the systems will perform backward recovery or safety measures. The proposed technique is based on the execution of design diverse variants on multiple virtual machines, and assigning reliability to the results produced by variants. The virtual machine instances can be of same type or of different types. The system provides both the forward and backward recovery mechanism, but main focus is on forward recovery.



AGE:23 GENDER:MALE

I think s good crowd art project would to be something that incorporated our new "Green" society and our love for modern technology. I think something cool to do, would make like a time line piece, where it starts from early crappy technology, then slowly moves through the evolving pieces. These old pieces could state how they destoryed or hurt the planet, and then as we start to get to new technology, add in how the newer the technology gets, the smarter that the people get, and make less poloution. It would be cool to see the changes in technology, and how now human and technology can live in an upbeat world together, and not destory it.

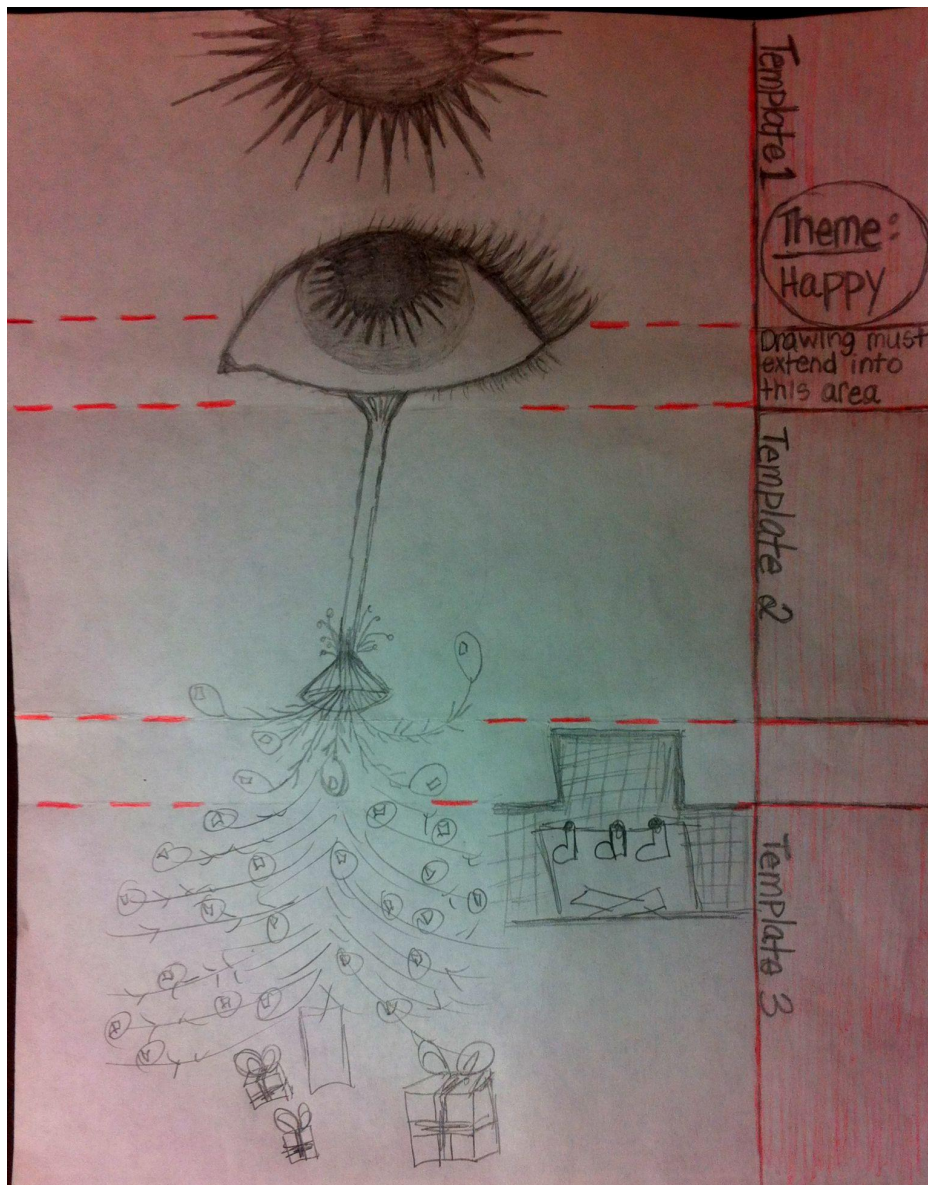
Age: 28

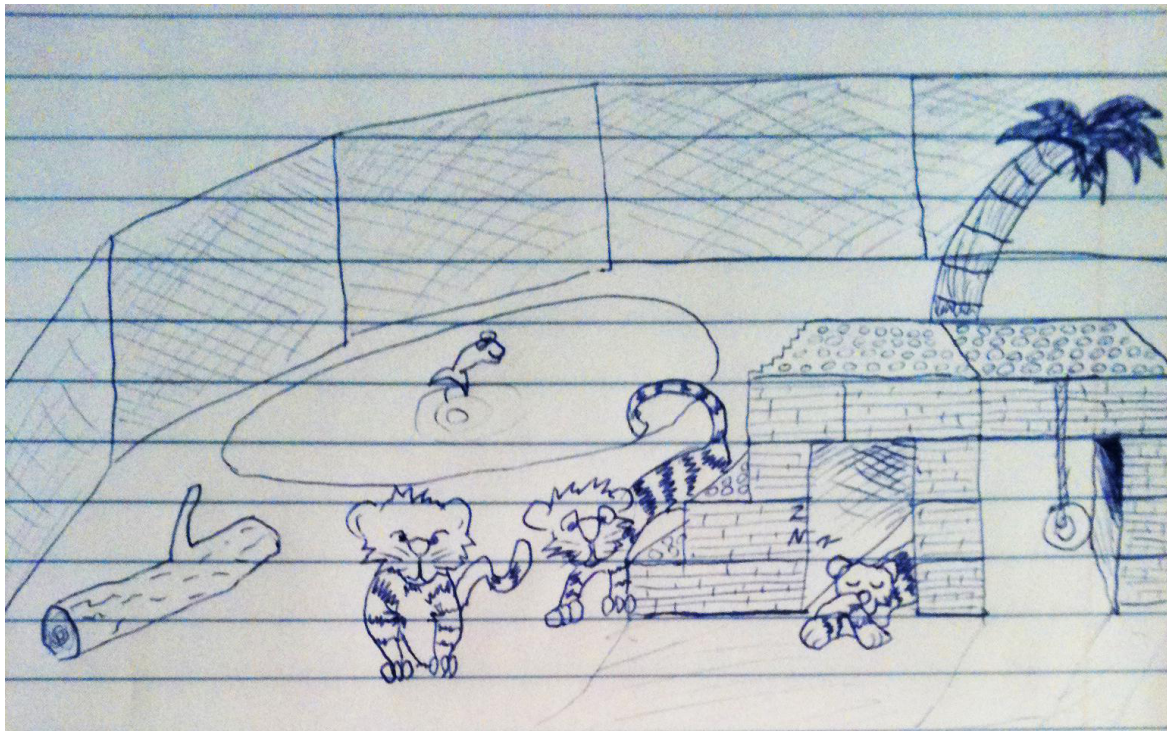
Gender: Female

Project Title: Trains of Thought

Project Description:

Users are given an online drawing template that shows the bottom quarter of the previous user's template at the top. They continue the drawing from the top to the bottom of their page, incorporating the visible portion of the previous user's drawing into their own. Before they begin, users are given an abstract theme (freedom, home, inequality, etc.) and asked to illustrate this concept in some way. Each Train of Thought uses the same theme and the program would provide drawing tools.





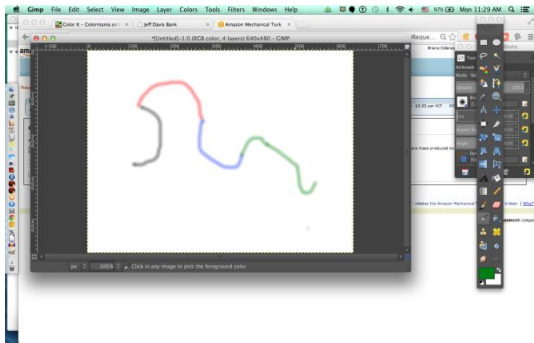
Kyle E. - himsheart@hotmail.com

I see a crowd art project as an opportunity to teach children positive values. My idea is to have all participants make giant lego blocks to a specified size from all their old legos. These giant blocks could then be gathered and glued together to make a giant habitat from the legos and donate it to an endangered species like Siberian Tigers. Super glue would be used and the blocks would never come apart. The lessons of recycling and generosity could apply to this project, not to mention create some happy cubs and possibly even break world records for legos!

One but Many

We all have a voice, whether or not we can speak. Use the audacity software to record us all saying a certain phrase. If someone is mute, they may use voice synthesizing software to make their sound. Pass the same file from person to person, and each one adds a track. The collection of voices becomes as one, and yet still maintain individuality. Also a graphic (GIMP + layers function) to which we have each added just one line, so our picture is also one but many. Make it a web page.)Background sound + graphic.)

Briana Delaney,
Female, 30

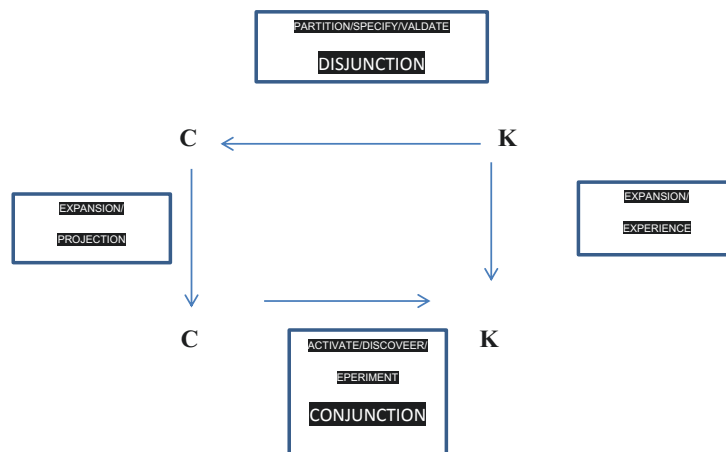


KCP METHOD:

KCP method is a new method for collective creative design. To evaluate and position this method in the constellation of other collective creativity method, we propose an integrated framework based on a general theory of innovative design reasoning, CK theory. The approach led us to identify four main dimensions of a collective creativity method: explore the whole conceptual potential of the initial concept, $\square\square$ involve and support people in a rule breaking process, enable relevant knowledge activation, acquisition and production, $4\square$ manage collective acceptance and legitimacy of rules (re)building. We show that collective creativity methods have been proposed and are today improved to address these issues. We show that no one of these methods is able to combine dual expansion on both social and cognitive perspectives. We have shown that the KCP method can address all four dimensions. This performance comes from the fact that this method contrasts with classical creativity techniques, insofar as $\square\square$ it insists strongly on knowledge sharing, $\square\square$ the design reasoning is strongly oriented by the organizers when they propose the C \square pro \square ectors and $\square\square$ it ends with a design strategy and not with a set of selected ideas.

C-K THEORY DESIGN:

CK theory offers a clear and precise definition \square of design that is independent of any domain or Professional tradition; it integrates creative thinking and innovation as the central core of the theory. CK theory makes use of two spaces: (1) K – the knowledge space – is a space of propositions that have a logical status for a designer; and (2) C – the concepts space – is a space containing concepts which are propositions, or groups of propositions that have no logical status in K . This means that when a concept is formulated it is impossible to prove that it is a proposition of K . Design is defined as the process by which a concept generates other concepts or is transformed into knowledge, i.e., propositions in K . Concepts can only be partitioned or included, not searched or explored. If we add new properties ($K \rightarrow C$), we partition the set into subsets; if we subtract properties we include the set in a set that contains it. Nothing else can be done. After partitioning or inclusion, concepts may still remain concepts ($C \rightarrow C$), or move to propositions of K ($C \rightarrow K$). The two spaces and four operators (including the $K \rightarrow K$) are shown in Figure



A space of concepts is necessarily tree structured as the only operations allowed are partitions and inclusions and it has initial disjunctions. Yet, we need to distinguish between two types of partitions: Restrictive and expansive partitions. If the property we add to a concept is already known in K as a property of one of the entities concerned we have a *restricting partition*; if the property we add is not known in K as a property of one of the entities involved in the concept definition, we have an *expansive partition*.

NAME: ANAND G
SEX : MALE
AGE : 22
Country: INDIA
WORKER ID: A1TJE3IG2C77IC

Fascinating Fractiles

Having spent my career in the elementary classroom I am quite familiar with crowd art both large and small. Think a huge 17 x 17 hand filled with multicolored children's hand prints for example. What makes fractiles fascinating is that these hand prints (or any simple image) would be in many sizes. Staying with simple images let me see I what can do here:

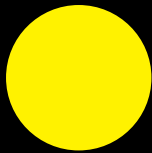


We would start with the smallest figures and wrap them around the image like a furry coat and we would use the middle size figures lined up to replace the upright piece and the larger ones to create the bigger S. The fancy arty idea would be to use any scalable image on a non-text platform and arrange them to create a new creation where everything you examined would be made of the same image. You would choose the image and the theme like money and everyone could help locate it on the background in the size, color and location of their choosing.

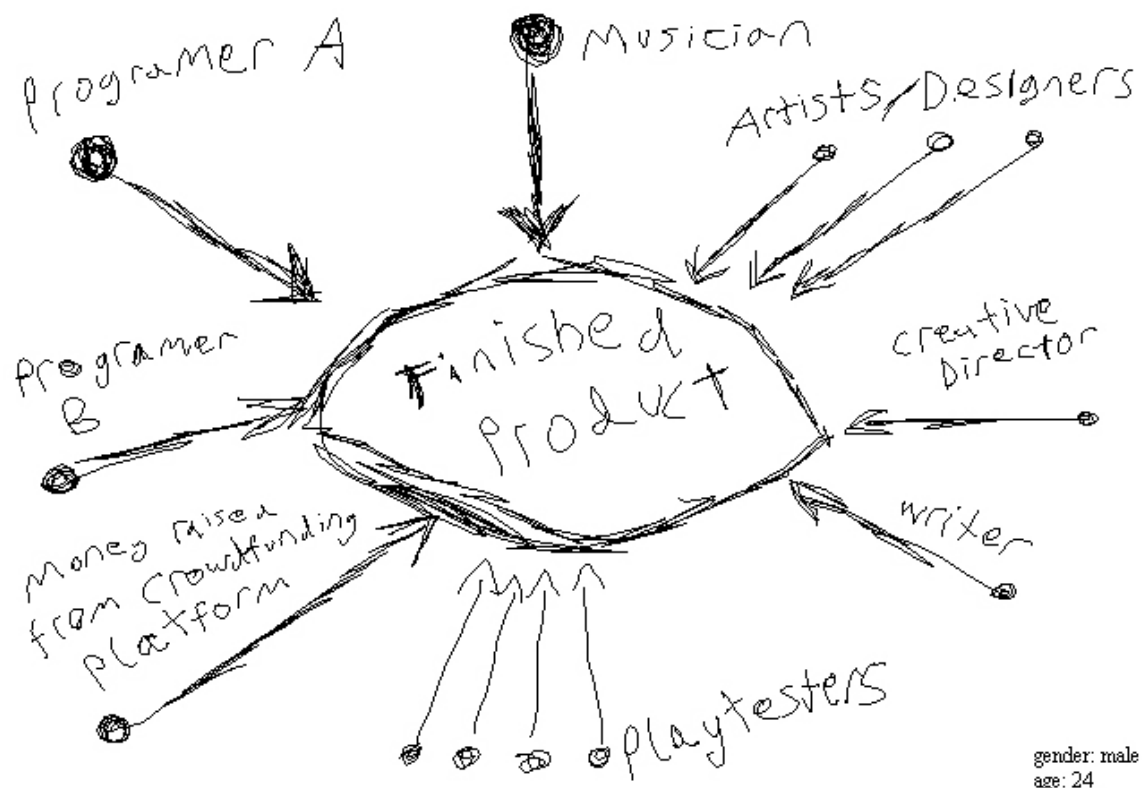
By Auntie Cathie age 73

Crowd Art Project Idea: BURN THE SADNESS

1. Have anyone interested write something (a thought, a memory, something happening in their life, a pressing social issue—literally anything they would rather not have exist) on a little piece of paper and send it to an address where they will be collected.
2. Crowdfund funds on Kickstarter to send these pieces of paper into space on an unmanned mission straight into the sun.
3. Livestream the burning up of the rocket and its contents online. Hold a social media event with the hashtag #burnthesadness



Submitted by 30 year old female

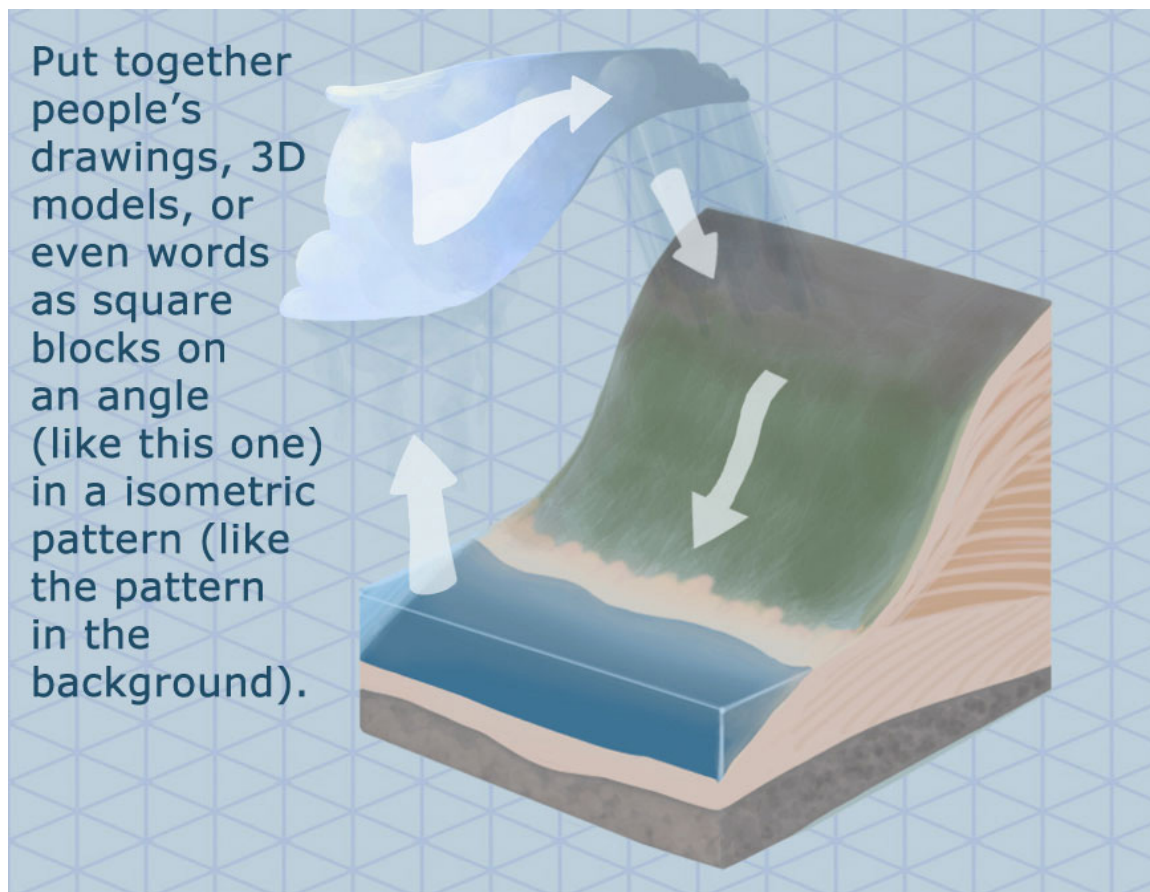


Game Design Crowd Art Project

Basically someone with an idea to create a video game would use social media and different internet platforms to contact and recruit different people to help create a game. The creative director would hire many different people to do small bits of the work. So like for music 24 different musicians would be hired and each would do one piece of music for the game. All of these separate things would come together to form a finished product.



I am 21 year old female. The first picture I did in high school when we were talking about the 20s. There is a movie called Cinderella Man. In the movie he goes to a work today pay today place. Life isn't that much different now. We are even more uniform in the way things are done.





10,000 Haiku

This crowd art project calls for individuals to go online and create a Haiku. Haikus are created in order, with each Haiku using a noun from the previous Haiku for a chain-reaction work. Basically, someone would sign up and be placed in the queue – Writer #1 would submit their Haiku, then Writer #2 would choose a noun from the previous Haiku to include in their work. The 3rd person in the queue would receive notice when Haiku #2 is posted.... In addition to these being online, select cities could host live events, displaying video of Haikus, as they are posted.

10,000 HAIKU

#1

*The internet is
Connecting us to others
All around the world*

#2

I look at the world
And the bright stars in the sky
And I am hopeful

THE STARS SHINING DOWN
MAKE ME GLAD TO BE ALIVE
THE EARTH SPINNING 'ROUND

#3

Idle No More

I would title my work "Idle No More". I would ask the art community to review the Idle No More website then post pictures and comments of what freedom for aboriginal people mean to the artist. This work would be displayed in an online format (maybe a book where each page can be turned – or page per artist.) The Native Americans of the United States support the Idle More movement. I would target (but not limit) this piece of work to the native Artist Community

IDLE NO MORE

FIRST NATION PEOPLE OF CANADA

In light of the recent events in Russia where protestors and innocent people with umbrellas were swept up by police action, I propose an art project which employs umbrellas as a metaphor for the ways in which humans shield themselves from the unrelenting nature of the world.

There are two components: the first is a clear or matte-white umbrella equipped with a battery and blue-tooth enabled color changing LED light. This will be paired to a volunteer's cell phone and instructed to change color through a networked app to create interesting effects when reproduced over a crowd of umbrellas. One umbrella is intriguing and many reacting to each other would be breathtaking.



I am a 26-year-old male.

Crowd Art Idea

Lifelogging.

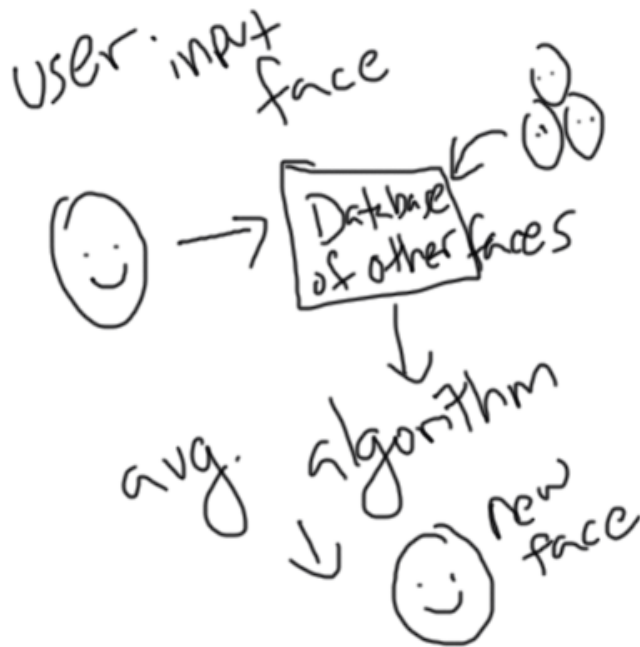
Finding a way to make the collectivities of the web more *personal.* What are the metrics that follow us around every day? How can we visualize them all in one place, and think critically about how those metrics (wherever they may be) constitute us as individuals in the age of digital distribution?

(Male, 28)

Crowd Art

I've always thought it would be an intriguing idea to algorithmically synthesize a portrait of individuals based on the way they'd *like* to be seen. I know studies have been done that show that people tend to find "averaged" faces more attractive. Using user-submitted portraits alongside averaging algorithms, it would be fascinating to allow users to input their own portrait as a base face, and then use other user submitted faces to slowly form a face of how they might rather appear. After doing so, it would also be interesting to see if the *other* faces averaged into this new "how I should appear face" also chose to incorporate an average of the original face the base-face user had used.

Age: 24 – Gender: Male



This dance/visual arts installation explores the effect of a dancers' media preferences and artistic influences on their choreography and dance style. A dancer and projection designer would collaborate to create one collaborative work. The dancer will give the designer a list of influences, and/or videos, writing, or images they like. The projection designer creates an audio/visual representation of these ideas. The choreographer creates a dance work. They are performed simultaneously.

23, male.

If [getting started](#) is the hardest part of the [writing process](#), close behind it (and closely related to it) may be the challenge of finding a good [topic](#) to write about.

Sometimes, of course, an instructor will solve that problem for you by *assigning* a topic. But at other times you'll have the opportunity to choose a topic on your own.

And you really *should* think of it as an opportunity--a chance to write about something you care about and know well.

So relax. Don't worry if a great topic doesn't immediately spring to mind. Be ready to play with a number of ideas until you settle on one that truly interests you.

To help get you thinking, we've prepared some writing suggestions--more than 400 of them, in fact. But they are *only* suggestions. Along with some [freewriting](#) and [brainstorming](#) (and maybe a good long walk), they should inspire you to come up with plenty of fresh ideas of your own.

We've organized the suggested topics into 11 broad categories, loosely based on some of the common ways of developing paragraphs and essays. But don't feel limited by these categories. You'll find that many of the topics can be adapted to suit almost any kind of

writing assignment. At the end of the list you'll find a special category with topics similar to those that appear on the SAT Writing Test.

Now follow the links to our 400 topic suggestions and see where they take you.

1. [Describing People, Places, and Things: 40 Writing Topics](#)

[Descriptive writing](#) calls for close attention to details--details of sight and sound, sometimes even of smell, touch, and taste. We've come up with 40 topic suggestions for a descriptive paragraph or essay. It shouldn't take you long to discover at least 40 more on your own.

2. [Narrating Events: 50 Writing Topics](#)

Another word for "[narration](#)" is "storytelling"--though often the stories we tell actually happened. [Narratives](#) can serve to illustrate an idea, report an experience, explain a problem, argue a point, or simply entertain our readers. Here are 50 ideas for a narrative paragraph or essay. But don't feel that you have to tell one of *our* stories--not when you have so many of your own tales to tell.

3. [Explaining a Process Step by Step: 50 Writing Topics](#)

["Process analysis"](#) means explaining how something is done or how to do something--one step after another. These 50 topics should start you thinking. But again, don't let our ideas get in the way of yours.



male 33 years old

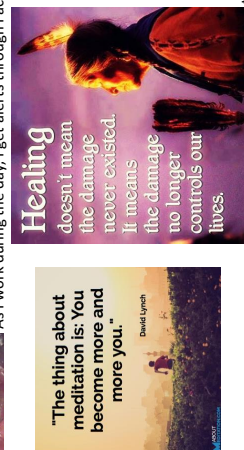


I am in a group where we share ideas, thoughts and sometimes pictures. The goal of the group is to be positive and supportive in all ways. People in the group know of the emotional scale and try to remain high on the scale so that we can achieve our

own personal goals, but support each other.

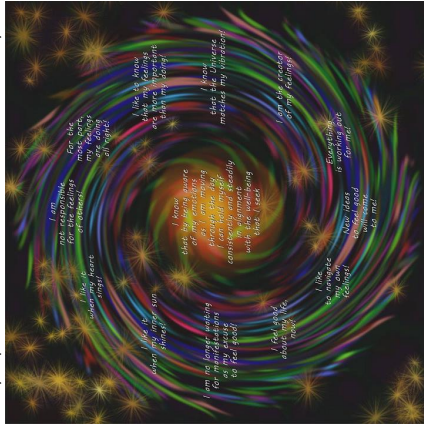


As I work during the day, I get alerts through Facebook that someone has posted a



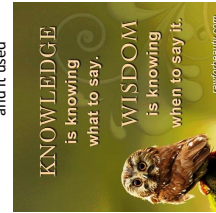
thought or may have a problem that

they want to discuss. We all try to pitch in and be honest and collaborative. It only takes a few minutes.



These are pictures what people in the group have posted over time. I have these rotate as my screen saver during the day and add pictures to my screen saver as the day goes on. When clients come in they enjoy seeing the different comments.

The input from everyone, comments to smiley faces to these pictures makes my day pleasant because I work from home and it used

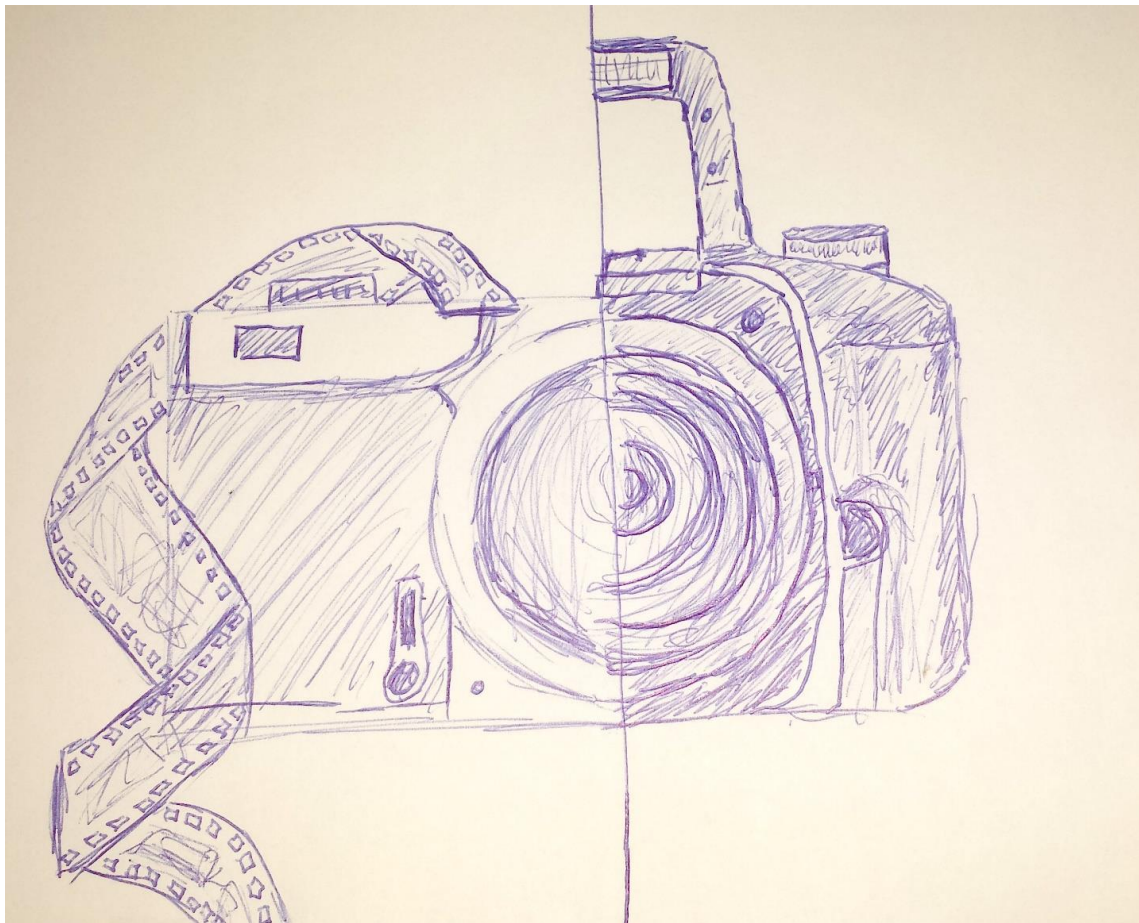


to be lonely and left me feeling isolated. Now I have many online colleagues from around the world with whom I work with every day and something new and positive is always happening.

21 years old, Female

Sketch: Photo Processing Crossover

This photo represents the change from analog to digital with the use of a camera. Aside from the shape and structure, the inside of the product has changed the most. Analog cameras required an extensive processing and development process while digital cameras in today's society take merely minutes to process. The requirements of film rolls has now become a vintage item.



Idea: Our lives in swipes

collect the swipes a person makes on their smartphone throughout the entire day and replay just the swipes in a time lapse way. So we see just the swipes of 24hrs in a compressed time period. Perhaps juxtaposing demographic information next to them might or might not tell us something. We spend so much of our days swiping away in our communications. Perhaps if two people are chatting or engaged in some fashion, those two swipe time-lapses could be synchronized to show when they were communication with someone.





The Old Woman and the Kettle

Reminiscent of an era gone by before modern cooking, a time when meals were cooked over an open fire in a kettle instead of an electric stove.

Gender –Female
Age 50

Crowd Art Project Idea

Amazon Mechanical Turk ID: A1EMY83ZFXXBI7

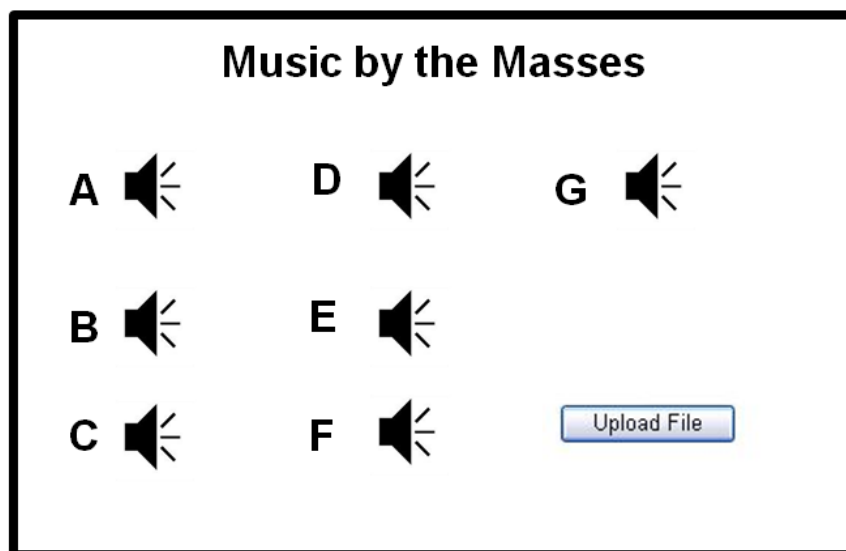
Age: 22

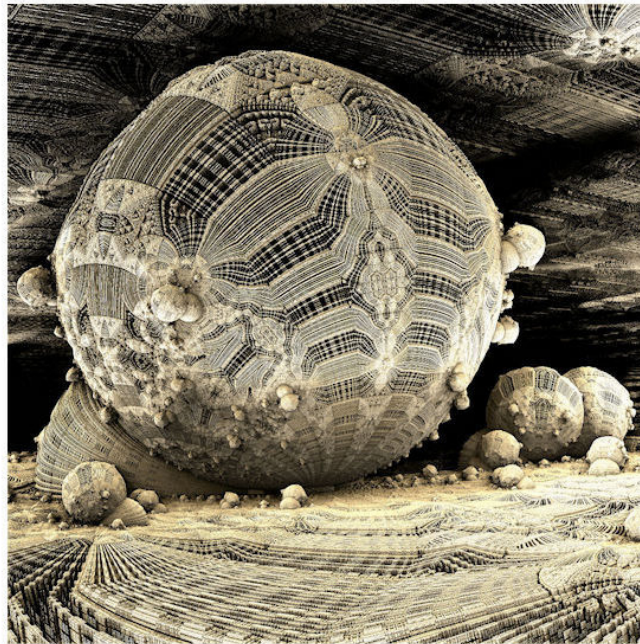
Gender: Female

Music by the Masses

My idea for a Crowd Art project involves creating music using people all over the world. To do this, I would create a website that has sample recordings of every musical note. I would then ask people to submit an audio recording of themselves humming or singing a certain note. Once I have gotten enough samples of the various notes, I can combine these audio recordings to create melodies, harmonies, etc. This project incorporates the masses by combining the huge variety of tones, ranges, and singing capabilities of the general public.

Sample website (basic sketch):





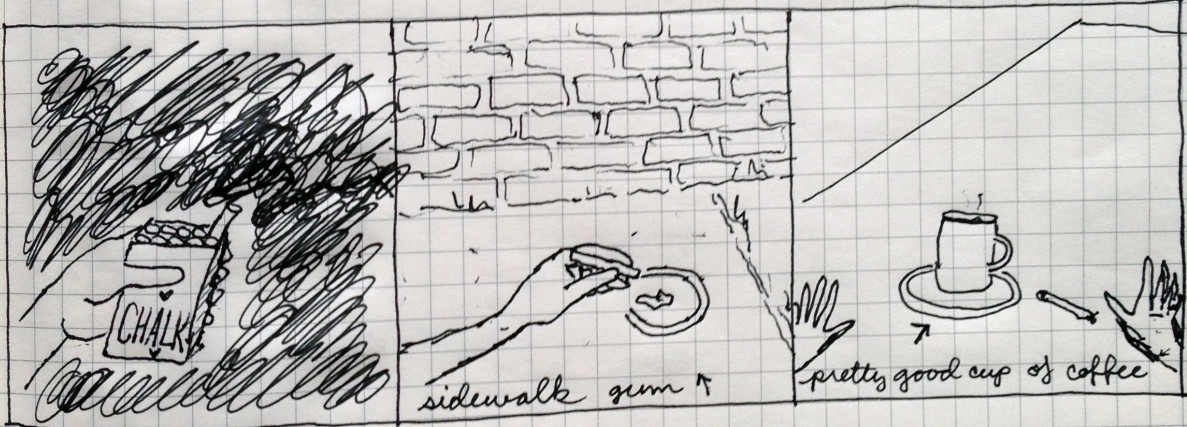
Crowd art might be a collaboration between many artists, who could pass projects through the Internet, and then modified as they see fit. For example, this image, generated by fractal software, could be modified as any number of collaborators see fit. With advances in 3D printing, it could even be made manifest, in a size, or in multiples, as people want, and the technology will allow.

Dave
Male, 55

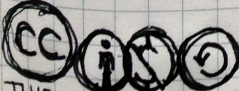
AMAZON MECHANICAL TURK COMPENSATION: \$3.00
CROWD ART PROJECT IDEA REQUESTER: MANUELA PFAFFENBERGER

IDEA:
TITLE: chalk piece
DESCRIPTION:
Hand out pieces of chalk with the instruction,
"If you want to bring attention to something,
make a circle around it with chalk."

QUICK SKETCH:

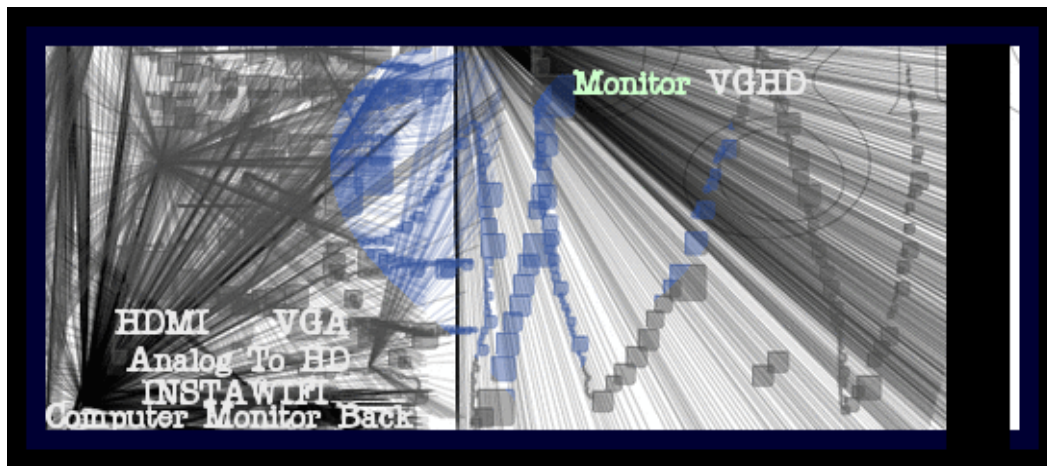


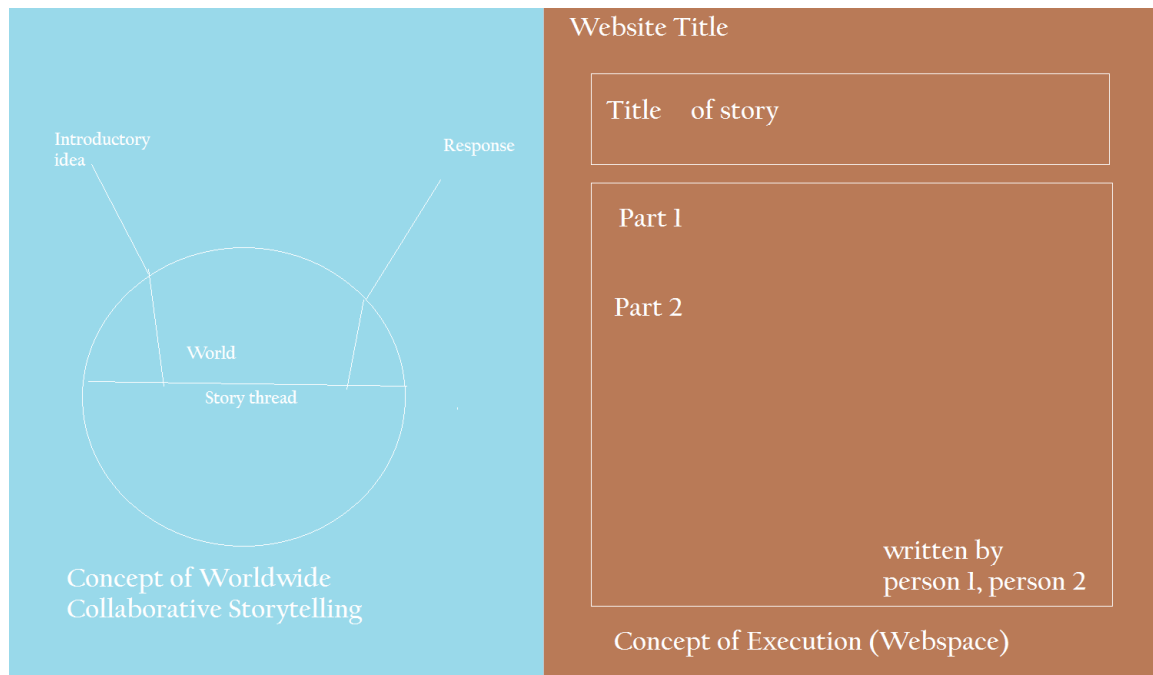
AUTHOR'S AGE/SEX: 27/F

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NONCOMMERCIAL-SHARE ALIKE 4.0 INTERNATIONAL LICENSE. TO VIEW A
COPY OF THIS LICENSE, VISIT <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.

INSTA-WIFI-Monitor

This stylish computer monitor that can go from Analog VGA to modern HD at the touch of a button. There are different settings conveniently in the back that have older viewing formats as well as modern. You tap this for setting changes. The little boxes are the computer monitor brain transferring information inside monitor. This folds away for easy storage. No direct source of WIFI needed. The strong signal option that boost unlocked WIFI signal strength for miles. This picks up signals from public places with Free WIFI like libraries. The fanlike divider in front area is where this folds.





My Crowdart idea is about collaborative storytelling. Once person would type a sentence, then another person would type another sentence and so on. The reason this exemplifies the idea of a crowdart community environment is because it brings people together on a global scale, but in the space of a computer. Each person shares a part of their life experiences when adding to the story. The story itself would be the collaborative effort of many people from all over the world.

I am a 21-year-old female. The sketch illustrates the concept and the reality of the idea.

FACES

In this creative endeavor, people are asked to add to an world portrait by submitting a section of their face – either drawn, photographed, scanned etc and adding it to an exisiting file that is divided into an equal number of squares.

Each participant is allocated two squares.

The end result is a series of portraits comprised of a wide selection of people and talent levels.

My gender – male

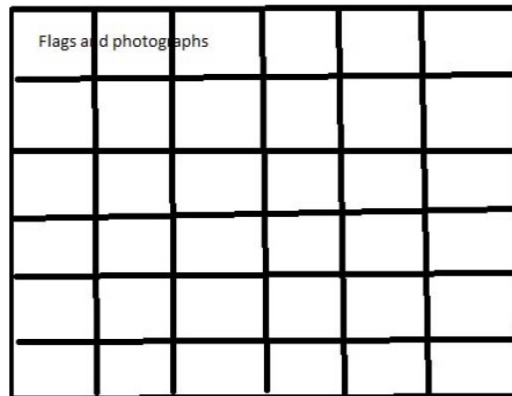
Age – 53

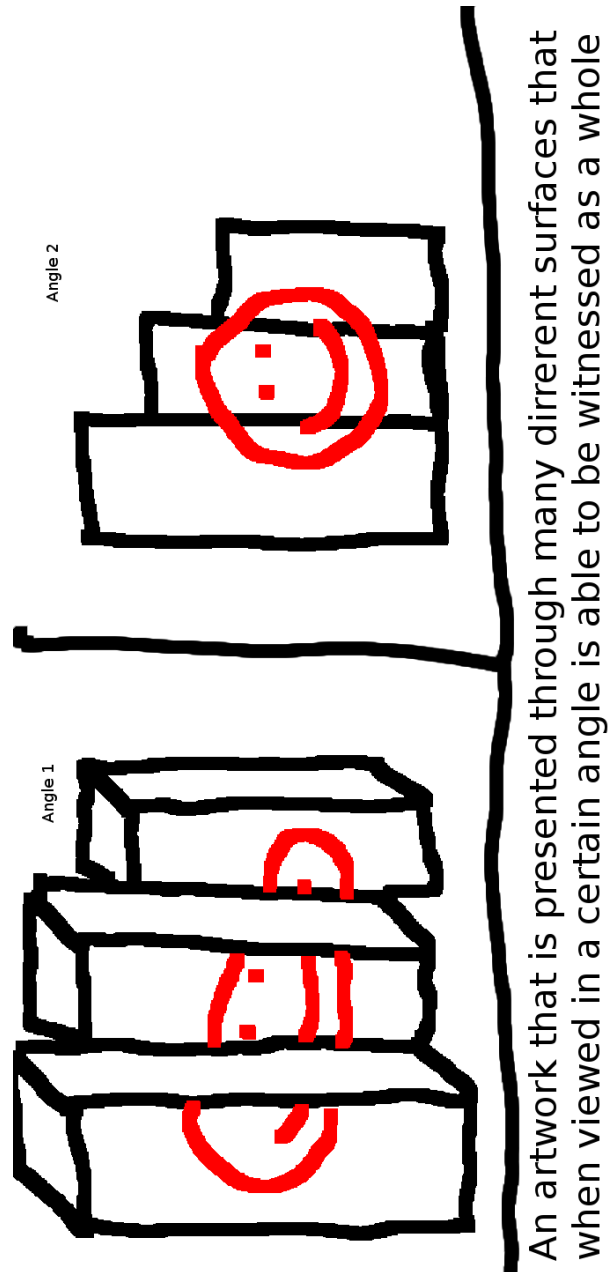


Crowdsource Project: Flags of Every Country

My idea for a crowdsource artwork project is very simple. Ask citizens from all over the world to submit paintings or pictures of the flag that they most identify with their ethnic and cultural identity. They can also submit a picture of their face (like a passport picture). These photos/drawings are then all juxtaposed together on a digital canvas that contains hundreds of thousands of pictures. This would be an great human interest piece of art.

Age: 29 Gender: Male



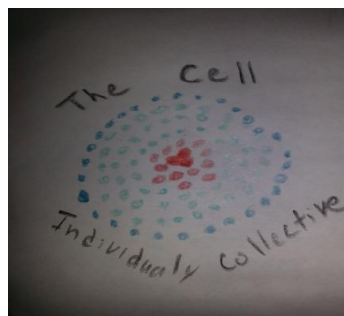


Female 27

Individually Collective

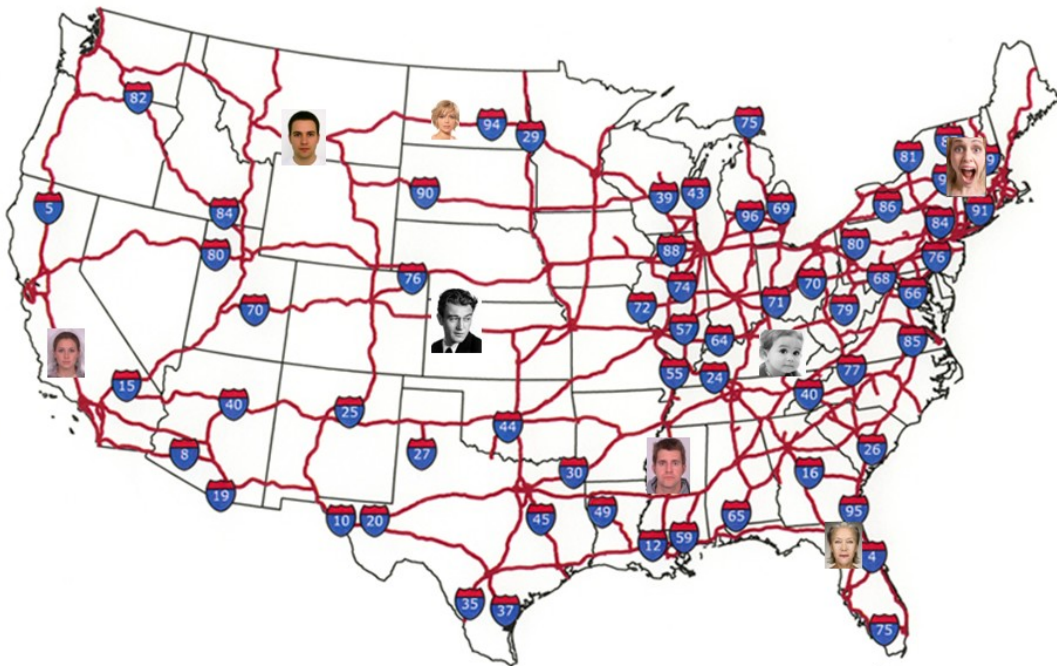
This is a group digital photo art idea. (People take a selfie while wearing red, light blue or dark blue and submit collectively to make a distance viewed picture, a single cell.) As humans, we are individual, but we work together collectively to achieve great things. We are like cells. Cells have many parts to them to do one job, but when many cells are combined they create something even better, an entire entity.

The red middle of the sketch is the nucleus, light blue cytoplasm, and the dark blue is the cell wall.

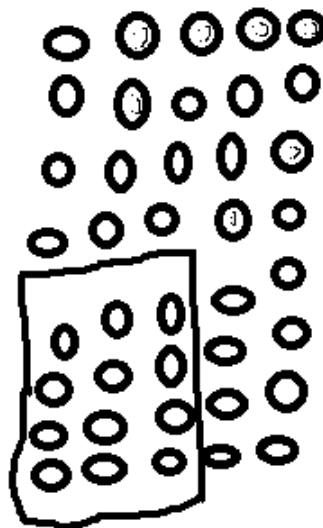


The US InterFace Highway System

The US Interstate Highway System has linked different parts of the country since the 1950s. The country is highly polarized today, even as social media gives us new ways to connect. The idea would be to collect compelling – a standard open to interpretation - firsthand accounts from people all over the country and arrange the pictures tied to the stories densely (much more densely than below) side-by-side to follow the interstate highway outlines. Zoom in and find more. The product could be a tool for chance discoveries and, hopefully, greater understanding of the people around us.



Male, Age 31.



Face of America Flag

My idea is to use faces an emoticons to replicate the American flag. Each person would choose either to upload a picture of themselves or choose an emoticon or avatar that they felt represented the. Each picture would then be added to create the flag. I think it would work best if millions of people were able to participate.

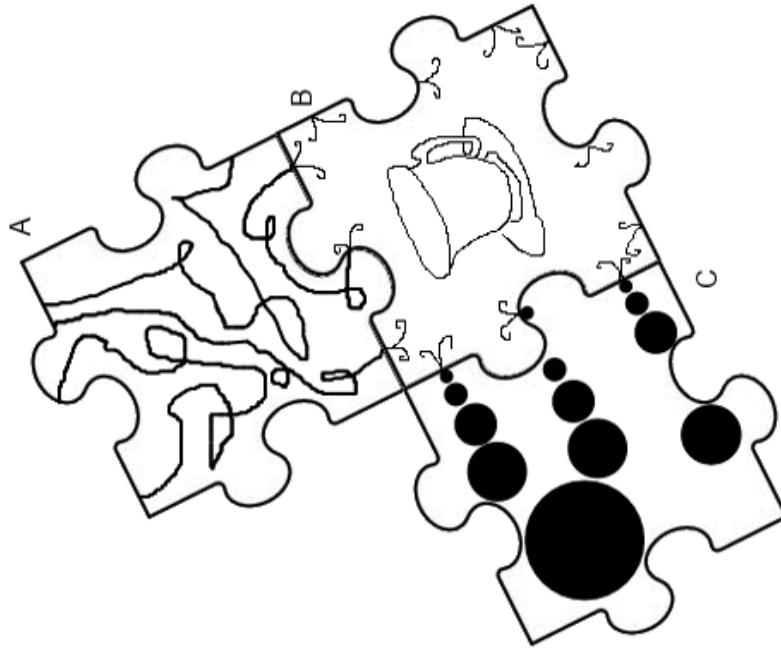
Age:25
Gender: Female

Crowd Art Idea: Giant Puzzle

Participants receive blank puzzle piece and are encouraged to continue puzzle loosely based on previous pieces. First piece could be manufactured or left to first participant. In this way, a complete work of art is created -- with a unifying, although largely unspecified, goal.

As an example, person A receives puzzle piece with instructions to sketch anything. Persons B, C, D... Z then receive a photo of the prior piece(s) which would connect to their piece (could be sent online or through post) and continues the puzzle. With the puzzle shape pictured (not my design) only up to four photos would be required for any one crowd artist to complete his/her part of the larger artwork.

25, Male





I would like to see a Crowd Art Project that entails herbs. I think this would be an interesting and beneficial Crowd Art Project. Not only would one learn the names of a lot of herbs, but people could also become better acquainted with the medicinal properties and ancient healing uses of herbs. I think this would be beneficial in identifying and becoming acquainted with wild edible perennial herbs as well. What many consider a weed; for instance, the dandelion, actually has many useful detoxifying properties as well as vitamins. Maybe it would be a good instructional series on spraying harsh chemicals to what one might consider “weeds” which are actually a beneficial source of nutrients.

35 Years Old

Female

My idea is an app, from the classroom game where you sit in a circle and each person adds a sentence to make a story.

In app, you have friends that you follow and vice versa.

User takes a picture of something and adds caption.

This is the first link in the “story”.

User chooses a friend to send it to.

Friend must take the theme of the story and add 2nd photo/caption to make 2nd part of story and so-forth.

Once story is complete, it’s posted for others to see.

Brings together friends-of-friends who don’t know each other.



Age 56 - Gender Male

Pixel War Rules

Participant get equal votes. Participants get to choose either a color or a boundary line for a specific pixel. Boundary makes shape. Colors form.

Results are compared:

Exercise One - six images, one the majority.

Exercise Two - five images, one majority, four less popular.

Exercise Three - four images, one majority, three less popular.

Exercise Four - three images, one majority, two less popular.

Exercise Five - two images, one majority, one less popular.

Exercise Six - Random Image compared to all others.

Exercise Seven - Image with most hits wins.

Crowd Art Proposal:

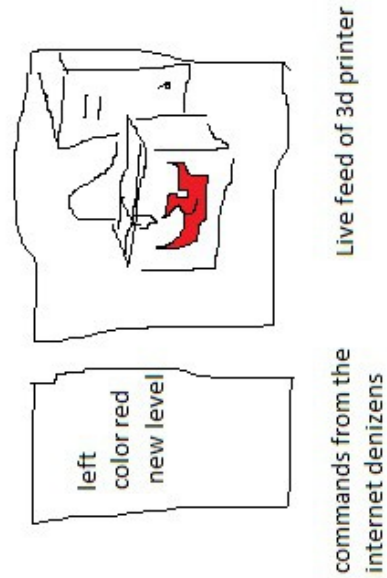
Build a wiki site to facilitate collectively
authored art reviews of current exhibitions.

AJ
Age 40

Idea: A 3D injection printer controlled via a Twitch feed, allowing all users to issue commands (directionals in 2 or 3 dimensions, color of current plastic, etc), viewed via a live feed. Resulting sculptures can be populate an entire show.

Twitch feeds have been used to control numerous computer driven things. Hooking a 3d printer up to such a feed bridges the networked control of cybertizens into the real world, producing actual sculpture and works of art. It will be up to those citizens to not simply create lumps of plastic but actual things of beauty.

36, male.



Age: 27

Gender: Female

Crowd Art Project: The “Happy”ness Effect

It’s not hard to notice how popular “Happy” by Pharell has become. It’s catchy, it’s vibrant, and it makes people want to move. So here’s my proposal for a Crowd Art project: have participants listen to the song, at least in part, and then draw their reactions to the song. At the end of the collection period, the drawings should be collected and put together in a video collage with the song as the music for the collage.

Example Sketch:



Mona Lisa Smiles

This crowd art piece, Mona Lisa Smiles, would be composed of commissioned line drawings of the Mona Lisa, one of the most recognizable paintings in the world. Participants would be recruited via Amazon Turk, Devianart, or Tumblr. Each artist would create a piece in their own style, portraying the Mona Lisa in a simple line drawing. After all of the entries are collected, they would be superimposed on top of one another to create an abstract mass of lines and shapes, with the Mona Lisa's basic outline shining through.

(note: artwork found on various websites, I do not own the rights to any of the following images)

Examples of Commissioned Pieces:



Example of Final Piece:



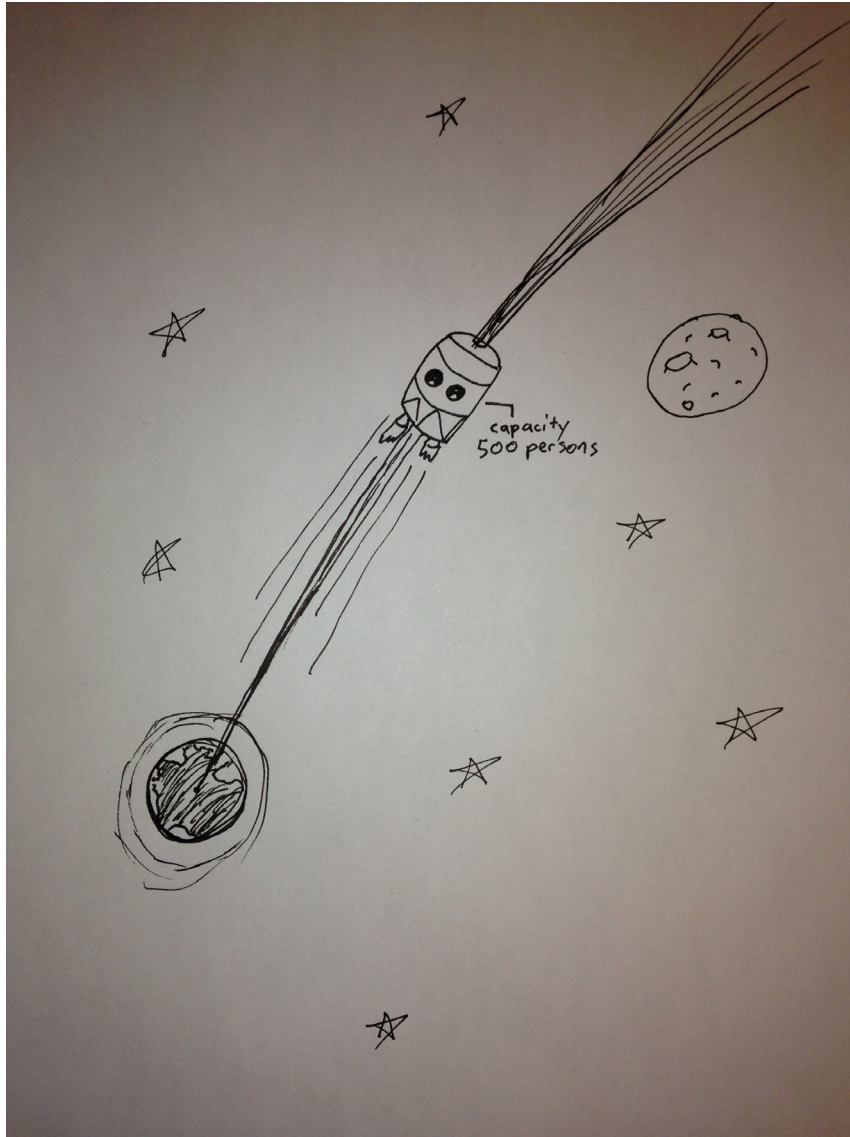
Requested Amazon HIT Information:

Age: 27

Gender: Female

Elevator to the Universe

In the future, great towering elevators will carry us from the earth's surface to the edge of space. From there, no distance is too far to travel. Sub-light shuttles will carry passengers to the Moon, Mars, and Europa. Hypergates will open passage to the stars.



I am a male, age 29.

female- 24

REWRITE A BOOK

Make groups of “word types” (verb, noun, adverb, etc) and have participants choose numbers (not knowing what they’re for) Each word from each group will be numbered, so the number the user chooses is the new word that will go in the space of the sentence they’re unknowingly forming. Word groups will be a pool of EVERY word in the book. The adjective group will have EVERY noun in the book- not just that page/sentence/chapter. The new sentences will be placed in the order in which they are received (can be done on smaller scale- page/chapter/etc)

1 Bernard sank into a yet more hopeless misery.
 "But why is it prohibited?" asked the 2 Savage. In the excitement of meeting a man 3 who had
 read Shakespeare 4 he 5 had momentarily forgotten everything else.
 The Controller 6 shrugged 7 his 8 shoulders. "Because 9 he's old; that's the chief reason. 10 We haven't
 any use for 11 old things here."
 "Even when they're beautiful?" 12
 "Particularly when they're beautiful. Beauty's attractive, and we don't 14 want 15 those to be
 attracted by 16 old things. We want them to like the new 17 one." 18
 19
 20

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

● already used

● test user

RESULT: The Savage read into misery.



Crowd Art Project

*Crowd Art is a growing field that's being implemented towards high quality projects. This is a part Crowdsourcing Art. It is a big source of works. 7 Captivating Works of Crowdsourced Art are SwarmSketch, The One Million Masterpiece, Learning to Love You More, The Sheep Market, The Johnny Cash Project, Explodingdog, Collected Visions. Crowdsourcing analysis is to audit your company to see where crowdsourcing can help you cut costs or improve labor flow. **Crowdsourcing project strategy** is to help you know what questions to be asking and how best to answer them. **Conduct crowdsourcing workshops** is to educate your team so they can find ways to cut costs in their daily job.*

Age : 33

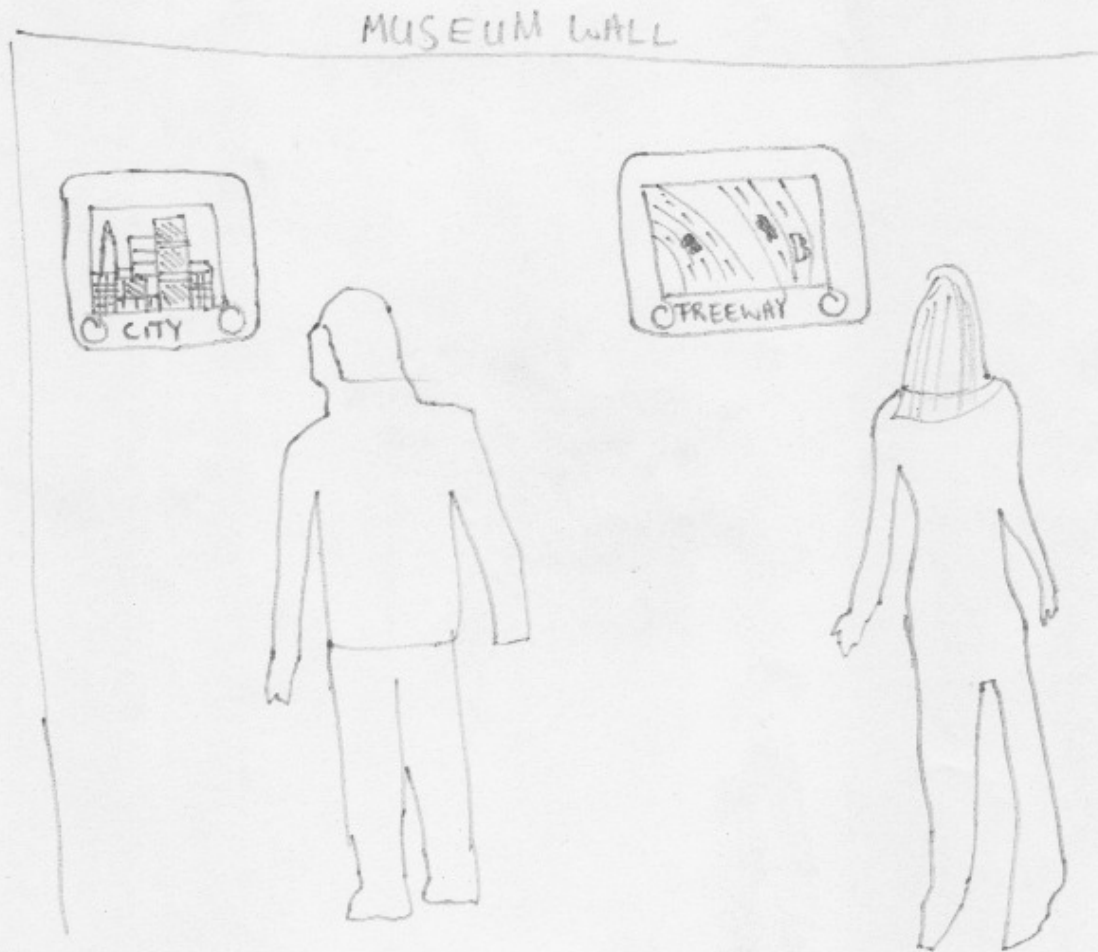
Gender : Female

Title - *Fragile Civilization*

While watching the film *Home*, I was feeling very disgusted by civilization which seems to have gotten humanity basically nowhere. Half of humanity still live in the sort of animalistic struggle for survival while the other half utilize modern technology.

To represent how at any moment all of humanity and everything we have acquired could be obliterated at any second, I thought of a series of drawings on etch-a-sketches placed in a gallery or museum. The drawings would be very detailed meticulous portrayals of something man-made like a skyline or something with the possibility that even the museum janitor could accidentally destroy the work at any moment and the only think preventing their destruction would be the humans who are responsible for it (curators etc.).

Participants in this crowd art project could submit sketches
Age 27. Male that represent technological aspects of civilization





Age: 30 Gender: Male

Take this type of design and repeat it with different variations of color filling in the different segments

Is This Art / This Is Art



th is
is
art

I would like to see a web site which fills its home page with an image like that above, with an up and down arrow visible. The two "is" lines are single-spaced, and the "th" line begins vertically halfway between the two "is" lines.

Individual web site visitors pressing or clicking on up or down arrows would "vote" on whether the project is art, so that if there were 100 clicks for up, the site would read "this is art," if there were 100 clicks for down, the site would read "is this art," and if there were a mix, the "th" would float between the two "is" lines. The "th" level would update on all current visitors' screens as each visitor pressed an up or down arrow.

Visitors would "vote" on whether the site was art or not, changing the message of the site.

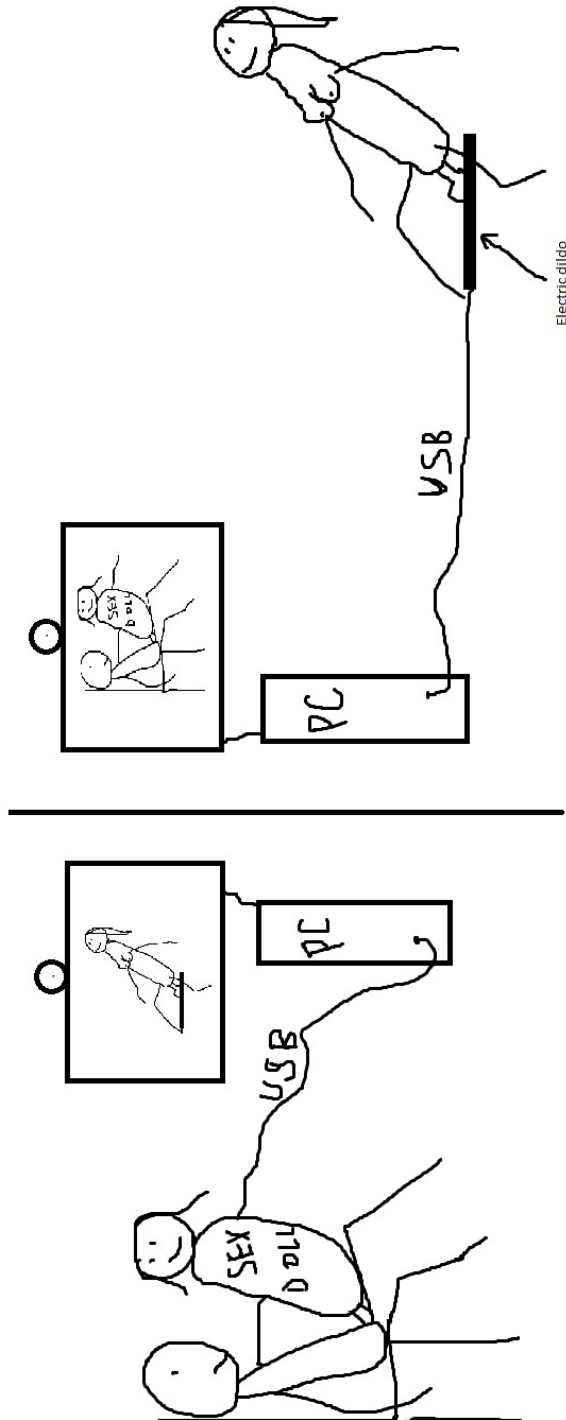
If the visitors ultimately chose that the site was art, the system could switch modes as follows: an unlabeled text entry box would appear beneath the phrase, and a fourth line would appear between the lower "is" and the "art." Whatever a visitor typed in the text box would appear in the new, fourth line when the visitor pressed enter, but would then be replaced on the screens of all visitors by whatever any other visitor typed and entered. So, for example, if two visitors wrote "boring" and "exciting" and pressed Enter in sequence, the site would momentarily show "this is boring art" followed by "this is exciting art." It would be nice to have a history of the entered words available to scroll back through, and it would be nice if the words appeared with some sort of sliding or dissolving animation.

Mitch Trachtenberg, age 56

Two Way Interactive Online Sex System

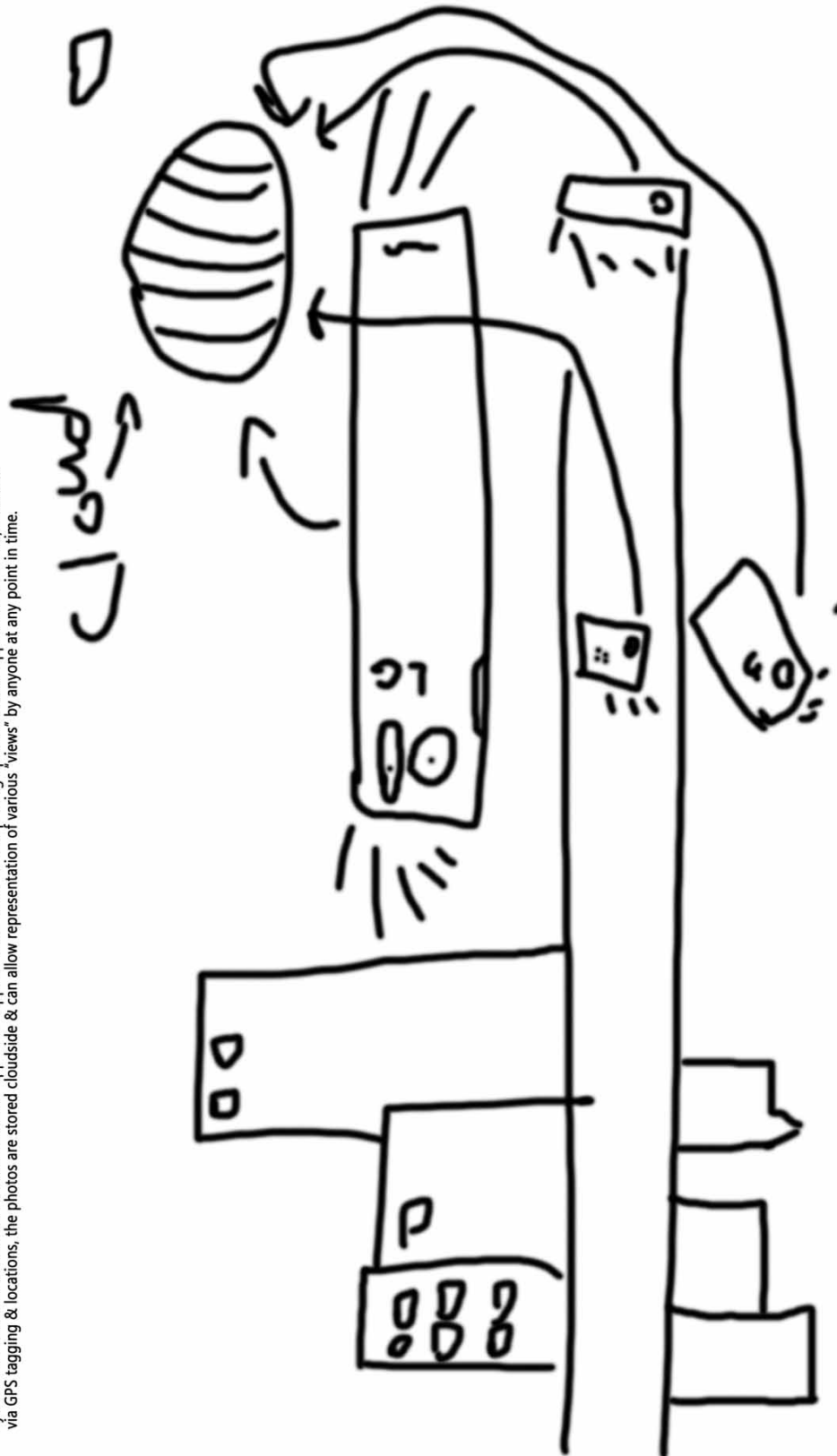
The Two Way Interactive Online Sex System allows users in separate locations to experience simulated sexual contact with each other. A male inserts his penis in the sex doll, which gathers information and allows the dildo on the female side to mimic size and hardness. Similarly, electronic dildo gathers texture and tightness measurements from the female vagina and enables the sex doll to imitate the exact feel of the vagina.

I am a 26 year old male living in the US



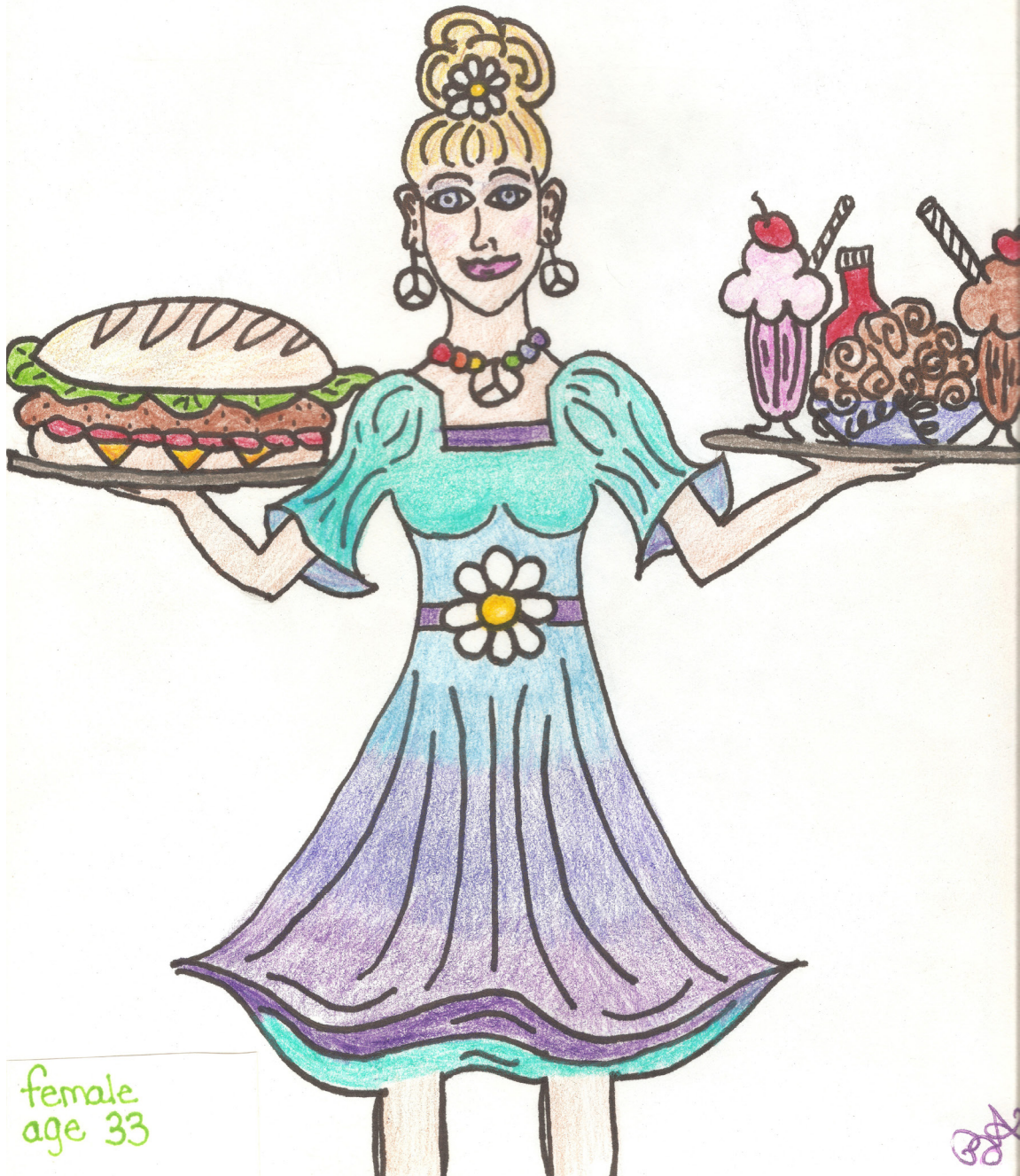
Crowd Art Concept - By Justin H. Age 24 - Male

My concept revolves around digital distribution on the mobile platform, i.e.: Android apps. This app will be shared across various digital eco-systems & shall be from here on referred to as the "app". The App will allow users to take photographs in certain "approved" locations; enforced via GPS tagging & locations, the photos are stored cloudside & can allow representation of various "views" by anyone at any point in time.



scooby doo ~ featuring you !

Turn yourself into a groovy, 70's style cartoon character that Scooby & the Gang would meet ... in your dreams.



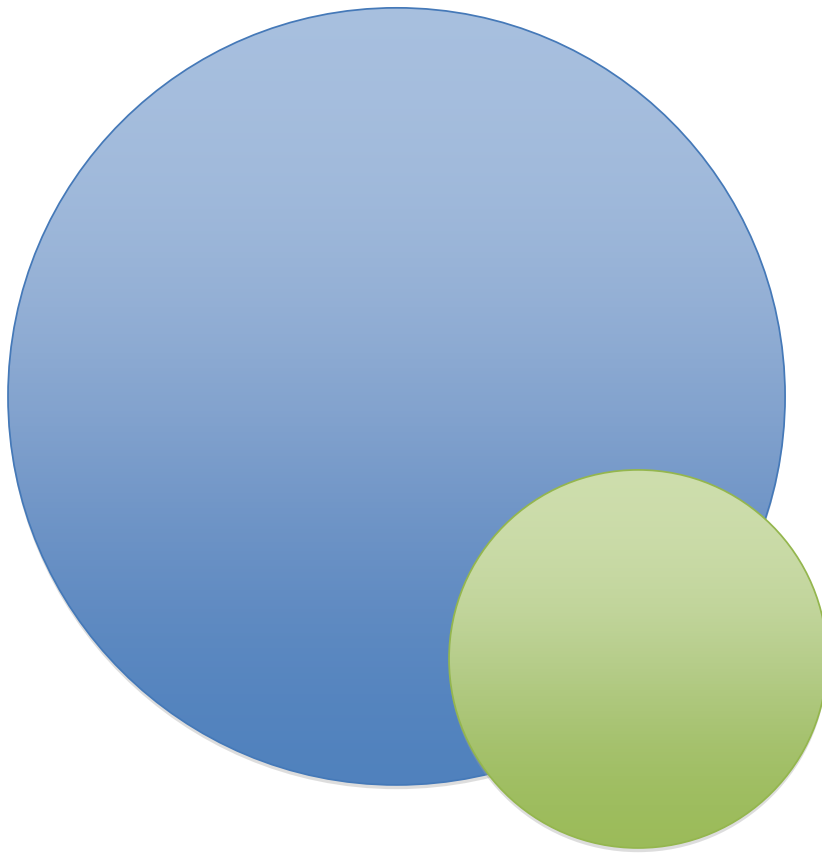
Nourishing Ars (roasted veggies on a wax paper)



CLOUDS GALORE

MALE, 19

Description: This conglomeration of colorful, circular clouds is serene and calming. It is pleasing to the eye and evokes a sense of tranquility, arousal, and blithe. The circular shapes are smooth, emphasizing the lax nature of the overall image. The colors depicted in this image also insinuate an overall sense of harmony and serenity, ultimately conveying the overriding aspect of beauty.





Project name: Draw Another

People can choose to draw someone else (their portrait) who at his/her turn will also draw someone else. The drawing can be based on somebody else's description or a picture. The person is allowed to draw it in their own style and in any medium he/she wants.

Age: 22 Gender: female

Title: The World of Lord of The Rings



Here is my idea for a crowdfsource project: The Shire, Bree, Wethertop, Rivendell and many more come alive with works by fans the world over.

Note to Requester: ^^; I wasn't sure if my sketch was correct or not, but, apologies for the bad drawing. Also, I'm new to crowdsourced art, even though I think the concept is interesting.

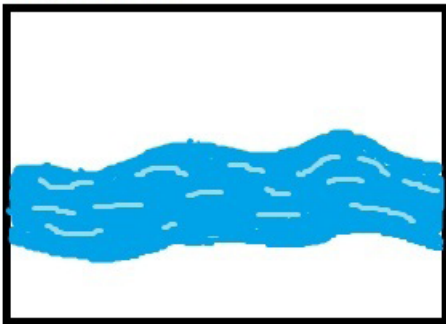
Age: 22

Gender: Female

Color Cloud

Description: The first person is given a short description of a scene. For example, "the sun is high in the sky, overlooking a tropical beach." They choose one color. The person then draws everything in the picture that he/she imagines would be that color. If they choose blue, maybe they draw the water, a bottle washed up on shore, and a swimsuit. But they only draw the things that would be that color. Their picture is then given to the next person, who receives the same description and chooses a different color, filling in more of the picture.

First person (blues)



Second person (yellows)



Third person (greens)

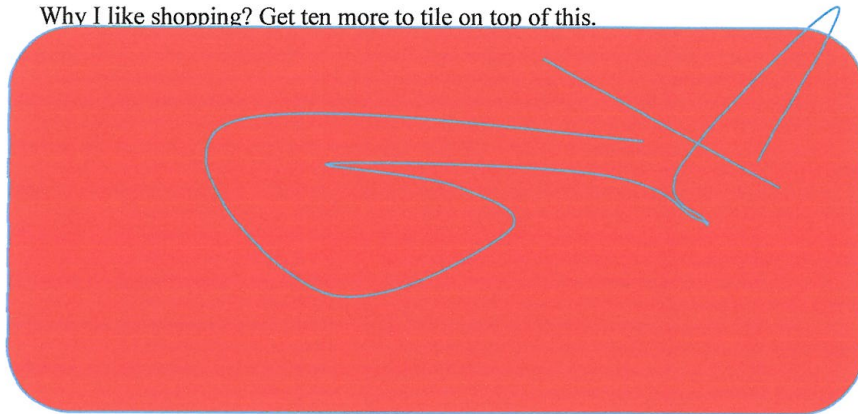


And so on until the picture is finished.

Age: 29
Gender: Male

Art- use a theme- something real like poverty/war/travel/still life and or something aesoteric like love/hate etc Ask ten people to submit a tile with a shape or image which to them represents that concept. Compile the tiles into a single composite image in the order they came in. Because their are ten tiles the order of them and their respective visibility can be altered so that each person in the crowd can get a final image with their image in forefront and votes can be taken on which final image best represents the concept. Meaning ten income sources can be gained from the ten or eleven resulting finished tile composites. This will also give a platform of ten for all ten images to be distributed by and from and increase visibility for all ten people.

Why I like shopping? Get ten more to tile on top of this.



Graffiti Hands across America Mobile chapbook

The 80's saw an event that had lasting significance in the way of collective engagement, while somewhat unsuccessful in its endeavors. The "Hands across America" event can be morphed into a movement created with this same conceptual theme in mind, although using several graffiti artists hands to create one meaningful work. Using a means that is easily mobile Graffiti Artists would produce a piece of work or tag on it that can be shared by other artists in a collage and that central piece is passed along to others to add their piece. The mobile "collage" would not have to be anything more than tags by each artist, somewhat like a chapbook that can be passed around for talented individuals to add their own work. Imagine a large mobile canvass like a van or truck that is passed to artist after artist, meant to have global appeal as a whole.

Example of one graffiti tag, additional tags would be added to create a collage effect from multiple artists.



Crowd Art Project Idea

Age: 19

Gender: Male

Pedestrian Canvas

My idea for this project is simple. Replace the pavement of a relatively large public square (for example, in a park, in a shopping center, in a concourse etc) with a series of tiles that can record pressure being applied to it at a very high resolution. Because these tiles would be placed in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic, they would mostly record footprints. However, they could also record other types of pressure (animal footprints, human-powered or mechanical vehicles, raindrops, “digital snow angels”, finger-writing etc). In this way a work of crowd art would be created.



The Pedestrian Canvas would be a digital version of footprints in light snow, although it would capture pressure with greater resolution.

Wikipedia defines crowdfart as the process of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people, and especially from an online community, rather than from traditional employees or suppliers. This means they are going to the internet to get their answers. This allows for a larger group of responses in a much shorter amount of time. Artists of all kinds are going to Kickstarter, Pinterest, crowd4art.com, and photoartprojects.wordpress.com for ideas and information and money regarding their art. A good video is mandatory to get the amount of money you want on Kickstarter. So if you need help with your goals, those places are a good start.



Refrigerator Art Around the World

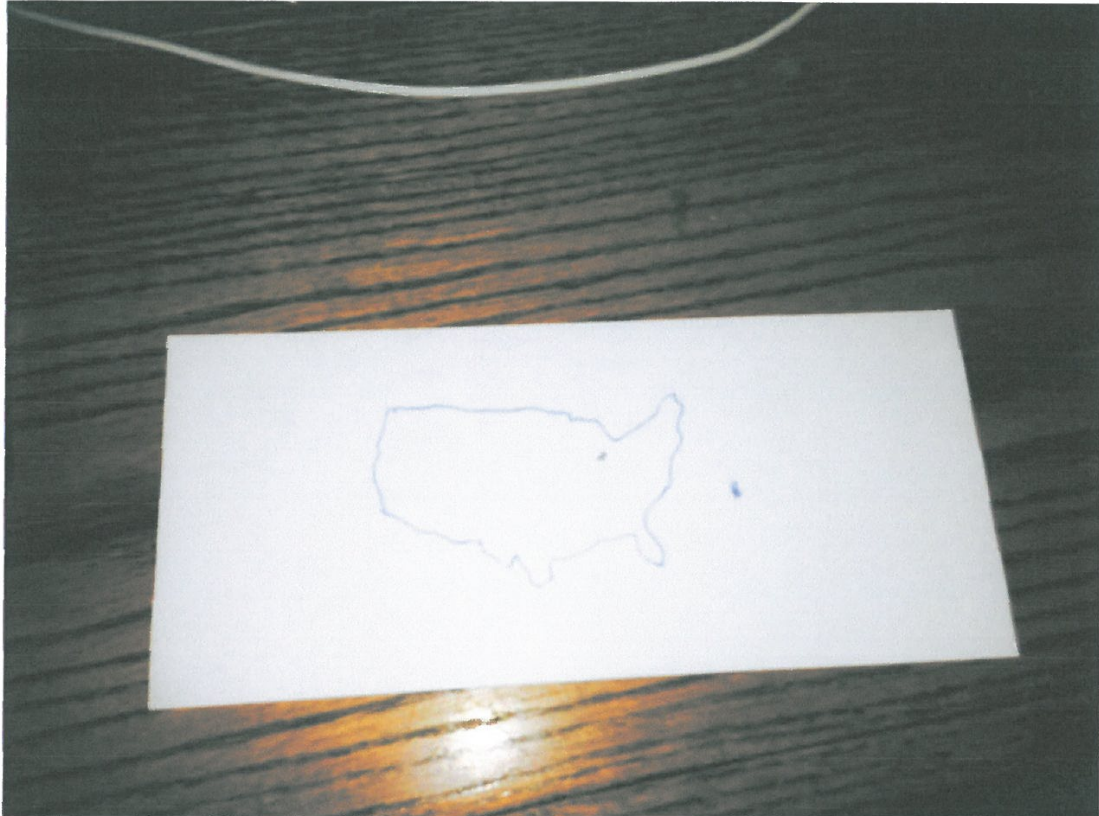
^^ I need a better title than that. Not all cultures hang art on refrigerators, or even have refrigerators. But my idea is a compilation of small childrens' artwork from around the globe. Perhaps made into something fixed like a movie. Or perhaps a more interactive, clickable format which could grow with uploads as more people hear about it.

Sketch? What would a five-year-old in Afghanistan, New Zealand or Nairobi draw on an ordinary day without adults telling him or her to be profound? I don't know. I want to know.

Stephanie, 51, female

Where are you from?

I call my project "where are you from" the goal is for everyone to put a star or dot on the map that illustrates where they are from so everyone can see what there group is from and what they are about.



Male 24

PRINTING OUT THE INTERNET

A CROWDSOURCED PROJECT TO LITERALLY PRINT OUT THE ENTIRE
INTERNET.

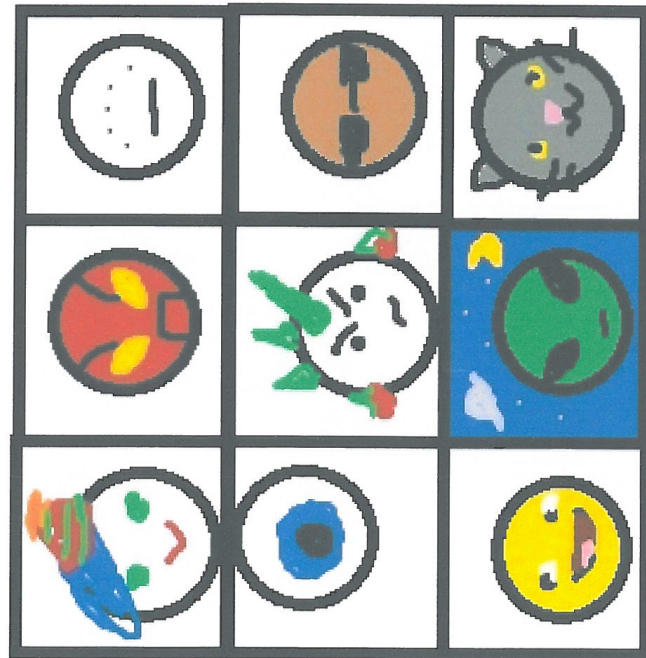
ARCHIVE RANDOM RSS SEARCH TWITTER

7TH APR 2014 | 6 NOTES

ONE ARTIST IS PRINTING
250,000 PAGES OF PIRATED
JSTOR DOCUMENTS, IN
TRIBUTE TO AARON SWARTZ.

Title: The Face of the Internet (I'm 29 and female)

An art project that uses a blank square you can draw on, or a face generator that has a high level of customization in facial features, skin tones, hairstyles, accessories (hats, glasses, cat on your head, etc), gets a lot of user submissions (advertise or post on social media), and then paste them all together on one big grid (probably with a program). It could use a face making game that already exists, even something like the mii maker (though then it would be The Face of Nintendo), or make a new one yourself.



I'm a 27 year old female and this is:

Our American Experience

It is a searchable image database that allows users to upload and tag their photos with mandatory qualifications enabling anyone to witness events of American life. If more than 25% of all user descriptions (140 Character max.) contain a keyword that isn't yet a search option the keyword will become an option in the drop down menu.

Search option examples:

- Search descriptions
- Taken: indoor, outdoor
- Contains people: any, general crowd, individual(s), crowd and individual(s), none
- Location: city, state, region, urban, rural
- Time: time of day, date, major event (i.e. election, hurricane), season
- Mood: happy, sad, angry, contemplative

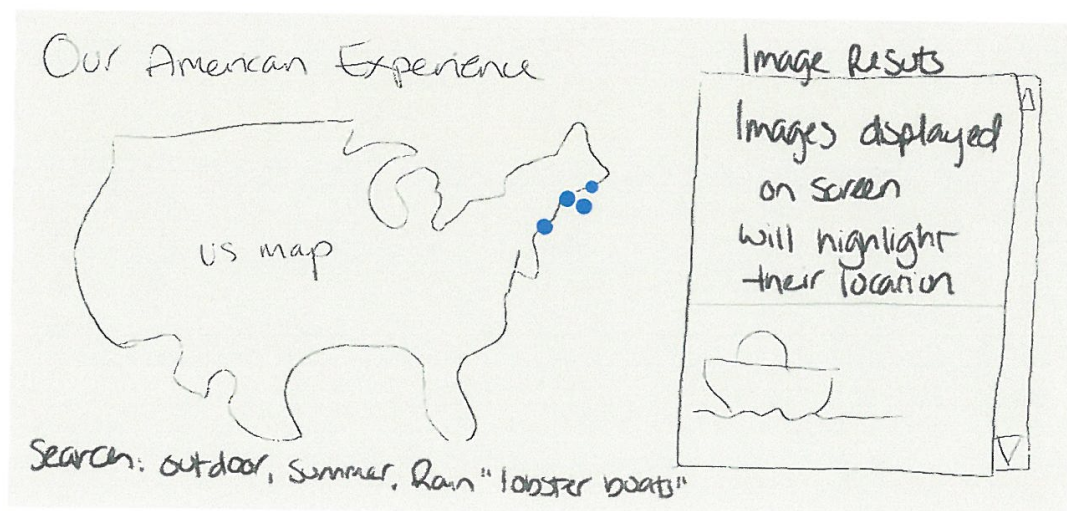
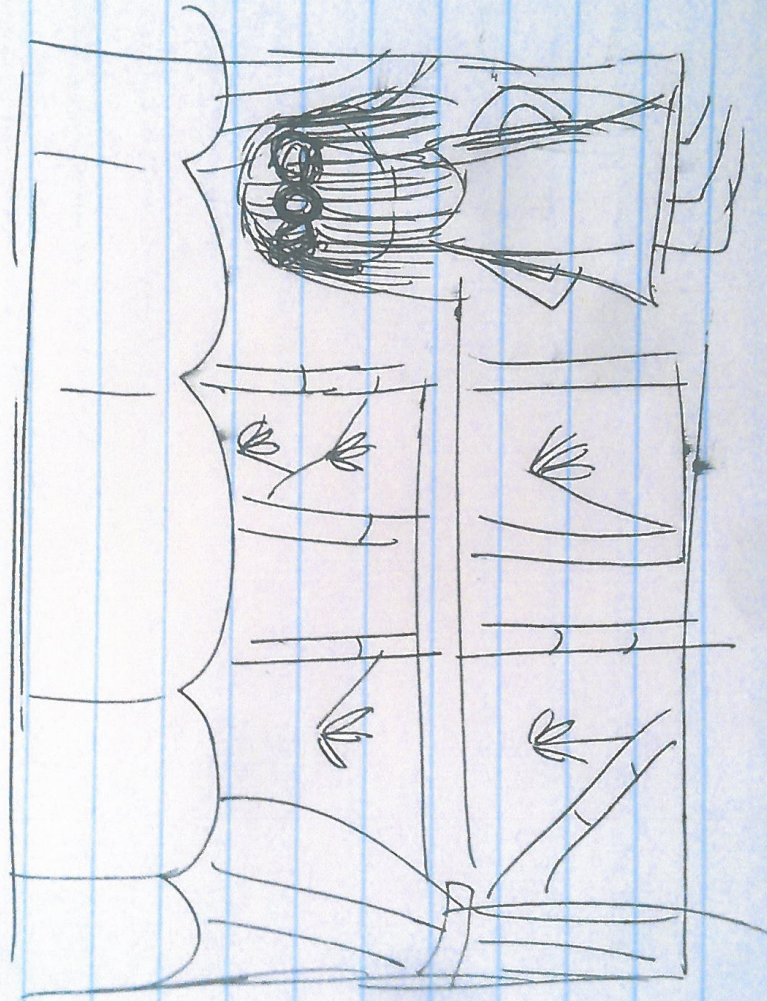


Photo Project : Outside My Window

Name: Potty Channing

Age: 24

Gender: F



Users submit the world that they see from looking outside their window. Your world is not contain to what you see.

(98)
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