Dreaming in Code

Jonathan Harris distills the Web’s infinite avalanche of thoughts, facts, and feelings into exquisitely framed portraits of humanity.

Unscripted by the semiotics learnt by his Web site creators, Harris then clicked on “Monastic” and a grid of colored squares dissolved one by one into thumbnail images, the visual essence of the biologist: American oak, cactus, beans, the Edelweiss, rose, pine, purple, blue,... Clicking on one created a gentle little explosion of more randomly colored dots, as the image — a conglomeration of the greens, subtly worthy of Tibetan Kalmans — expanded to fill the entire window. Clicking again launched the page one frame forward, with an imaginary match...
A collaboration between Harris and September Karmel, Love Lines scope thousands of blogs to find expressions of love, hate, and the feelings in between. Statements beginning with "I love," "I hate," "I want," "I don’t want," in "They" or in "You" are accompanied by the age, gender, and geographical location of the author, when available, resulting in a constantly updated database of human desire.

www.love-lines.com

We Feel Fine—along with the handful of Harris’s other works—defines a profound new kind of information design: it whittles down the world’s 17 million Web sites and blogs into a framed image of humanity. And it does it, continuously, and autonomously. Architects and designers have experimented with computational design, letting a computer run through a spectrum of possibilities within a given set of parameters. But Harris’s creations are different: rather than static buildings, magazine covers, or shopping bags, they are constantly changing artistic responses to a constantly changing world. By using the Web as both site and medium, they offer a way of seeing rather than merely living a sight.

I believe the Internet is a cultural revolution on the level of modern capitalism, the nuclear age, or even the age of reason. Then think of Harris as struggling to create its Impressionism, its Abstract Expressionism, or its neoclassicism—struggling, in other words, to develop a new artistic language for a new human condition. And undoubtedly for a new generation. It is different from those of us even just a few years older who made it through high school without e-mail, college without CDs, and at least a few years of our twenties without blogs. The material of experience has changed. The old rituals of memory—photographs, scrapbooks, diaries, letters—have moved onto the Web, opening them up for a new kind of analysis. "The goal for me is really to build a mirror to the world, and to see what that tells us about the largest number of people possible," he says.

www.wefeelfine.org

For 36 days in 2005, Yahoo collected words, pictures, videos, sound clips, and stories from more than 150,000 people around the world to create a digital time capsule. "Filterd" by Harris, the submissions were organized into ten themes, and could be searched and sorted by contributor demographics. More recent, the capsule will reopen in March 2007.

timecapsule.yahoo.com

i feel so alone and this is just another time when i want to go hide where no one will ever find me

7 hours ago / from someone in headlands north carolina united states
L.A. Hosts Summit to Fight Gangs

Gaza Ceasing

IRAQ

US finds haul of armour-piercing bombs in Iraq

US Senate passes military aid bill

Barack Obama's vacation

In 1954, a three-year-old Barack Obama was playing on the streets of Hawaii, where his father was a diplomat. He was surrounded by military men and women, and he began to understand the importance of peace and security. In 2009, he became the first black president of the United States, and he continued to work towards a world without war. Today, he is leading by example, using his influence to promote peace and prosperity around the world. He has made it clear that he believes in the power of dialogue and understanding, and he is committed to working with leaders from all corners of the globe to achieve a better future for everyone. Obama has been praised for his leadership and his commitment to his country, and he continues to inspire people around the world with his vision for a more just and compassionate world.