**GROUP TUTORIAL: Feedback and Reflection (WIL)**

This is a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience that provides an opportunity for you to be immersed in your studio practice and receive feedback about your practice from experts within the arts industry. In the School of Art, all your lecturers are practicing artists. This means that when you receive feedback from your lecturers, the feedback is from arts industry professionals. This process is integral to your learning experience and is an important part of preparing you for the role of professional practicing artist.

**Name:** Luna Hunter

**Date:** 29/05/2024

**Studio/Workshop Class:** VART3644

**Presenting your artwork**

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Include images here of the artwork you brought to the group tutorial.

**Describing your artwork**

*Brief, objective description of your work*

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| An interactive website with multiple elements, modelled after a desktop from the old internet era, with the visual aesthetic pushed into complete oversaturation and a vibrant red and blue colour palette. The website is based on a real person, under the username poetrywizard4life, who posted on the now-defunct website Geocities in the early 2000s. “Desktop icons” can be clicked on to open a variety of different pieces, including a 3-minute video in which a man’s voice reads out the contents of poetrywizard4life’s original website with a slideshow of images depicting “Chad”, the real face behind poetrywizard4life. Other icons lead to a collection of neon, distorted gifs mourning 9/11, an “about” page, and a long misinformative urban legend warning about the safety of onions. |

*Key words*

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| ***Nostalgia*** | ***Interactivity*** | ***Old Internet*** |
| ***Website*** | ***Self-Expression*** | ***Geocities*** |

*What were your intentions? How did you realise them? Why were you investigating them?*

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| *What?*  I made this work to memorialise the innocence of the old internet and the pre-algorithm self-expression that has been lost today. I spend a lot of my time browsing old websites through archives, finding interesting and funny users and observing their posting habits from over two decades ago. I wanted to create a shrine to these forgotten users so that, even if their websites are no longer updated or easily accessible and the people behind the users have changed and grown beyond who they used to be online, the memory of that digital innocence can live on in a small way.  *How?*  I created a website on Neocities modelled after a desktop, borrowing visual language from both the old internet and surreal, dream-like video games like LSD: Dream Emulator. This meant oversaturated and bold colours, pixellated graphics, tacky and dorky gifs. It was intended to be a highly exaggerated and distorted version of that era, pushed into a dreamlike, almost comical state. Every portion of text on the website is taken directly from poetrywizard4life’s old Geocities site, or Chad Livernois (the same man)’s Facebook. A lot of the images are sourced from there too, but again pushed further and exaggerated by making them highly pixellated with overly vibrant colour palettes. I wanted the work to be able to be interacted with like a real website, so I coded it in HTML with a hodgepodge of other users’ code.  *Why?*  I despise the way the internet is today so much. I spend a lot of my time online, but it feels like the internet is collapsing around me. Everything is algorithm and advertising and it’s all for the profit of corporations. It’s deeply, deeply insidious to me. However, there are pockets that you can find that feel less evil, places built around genuine self-expression, which to me is the coolest possible function of the internet. I grew up online in a lot of these spaces, and it was very formative to me to be able to be myself online, even if that self was equal parts dorky and cringeworthy and narcissistic and attention-seeking. A game called *Hypnospace Outlaw*, a 90s internet simulator, turned me into a Geocities-browsing loser which led to a fascination with old internet aesthetics and ways of communicating. So, really, this work is an homage to all of that – mourning the internet I never properly got to experience through a borderline fetishist lens. |

**Recording the feedback from your lecturers and peers (artists, exhibitions, readings, insights)**

*What did the feedback reveal about your work?*

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| I logged into the website on every computer in the lab so everyone could access and interact with it, as I felt that was an important part of the work. Up until that point, nobody other than me had actually interacted with the webpage, so I was nervous to see how it would go – mostly in terms of worrying that there might be bugs that ruin the experience that I hadn’t caught. Luckily that didn’t happen, and it seemed to be well received. It was cool to watch everyone explore the little page, and how they decided to organise the windows and the order in which they decided to consume the information. I think it’s a cool aspect that I hadn’t properly considered, because I’m obviously prone to browsing in my own very specific way, as is everyone else, so it was interesting to see how other people decided to look at everything. A lot of the themes that motivated the work for me were picked up on, especially this strange sense of sadness for redundant technology and internet strangers, and nostalgia for an era I never really quite experienced. It also did point me to a couple weaknesses of the work, or rather some places I think need to be enhanced. There’s no context for the work given, which might be to its detriment – I think it’s important to know that poetrywizard4life was a real user from the early 2000s whose work and identity is no longer easily accessible, so that the intent and emotionality of the piece can resonate a little more. |

*Record the names of artists that were recommended for you:*

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| Rhizome |

*Record any exhibitions and/or texts that were suggested for you:*

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| Ted Nelson’s Project Xanadu  Form Art |

**Responding to the feedback from your lecturers and peers**

*Outline themes, motifs or ideas the feedback suggested for further development.*

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| The next big step in this work was always going to be to make another desktop for another user, maybe even two more if I can have the time – but for the moment, I’m just going to plan one more and see. There were some helpful ideas on how to better this current page and the work overall though – it was suggested that I add a little prologue of sorts to the work that can provide some brief context before the viewers dive straight into the website. I am currently working on a “portal” where the viewers can choose a desktop to view and there will be a short amount of writing introducing the work, which should help with this aspect. It was also suggested that, to hammer the idea that this is a memorial of technology made redundant home, to incorporate some broken links into the work. For example, a classmate said it would be really cool to read poetrywizard4life’s poetry, but this isn’t available anywhere online as those pages were not archived. So I’m going to add an icon that purports itself to lead towards this poetry, but in fact will lead to a 404 not found type of page. I think these two changes will really strengthen the work and polish it up a bit. |

***Furthering your art practice***

Include, where appropriate, further visual representation: *ie. student Images/ reference images/ in-process images/ diagrams etc.*

