Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

Abstract Submission Form

1. Paper / Proposal Title: *'Text in a City'* : Breaking the City

2. Format: Short film/ Poetic Activism

3. Author(s) Name: Jon Gilbert/ Andrew Taylor

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5. University or Company Affiliation: Liverpool Hope University

6. Abstract (300 words):

My practice as research project explores the nature of text and the city, providing a new insight into the effect of text on our physical and digital architecture, with specific reference to the city of Liverpool. The project exists as a duality of new media video art and experimental poetry activism representing the tensions and collaborations between the physical and digital city.

The works investigate how the modern medium sized city governs the flow of people, of ideas, through an architecture of codes and digital information. Exploring how the city over-codes its landscape and its inhabitants by re-over-coding and re-contextualising its codes and signs. This is investigated through the use of 'glitching' techniques to 'break', and otherwise transform, the representation of the cities processes by revealing its materiality and fallibility. The project aims to show that by 'breaking' and disrupting the textual flow of the city, and allowing its inhabitants to see the subterranean machinations of text, opens up the possibility for a reforming of our relationship with the physical/digital City.

Parallel to the video work will be a work of experimental poetry activism which further explores text and the physicality of the city. A limited number of zines will be produced and left in places around the city, attached to landmarks, left in shops and public spaces. These zines will absorb the context of the surrounding architecture for the finder

and will encourage the formation of a more reciprocal relationship with the city by disrupting the prescribed movements within it.

My practical research is part new media art, part experimental poetry, part activism and part cultural commentary that uniquely investigates our interactions and relationship with the medium sized city. It breaks and digitally vandalises the architecture of the city to allow for critical reimagining's of its matrixes and codes.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

I am a glitch and new media performance artist, based in Liverpool, who creates work under the pseudo-name Andrew Taylor. This started when I began leaving pieces of poetry, complete with a twitter hashtag, in between pages of books in a popular book chain. Finders of the works could then be traced and interact with each other. Under this name, I have been part of the *incompatible* MA exhibition in Liverpool where my work explored the tensions and collaborations between text and new media. This involved the creation of an acentred network of work, comprised of ever shifting points, which could not be viewed in its entirety. In this vein, I work in a truly multi-media format, working with performance, audio, video and visual material that includes the production and distribution of zines.

Having just finished an MA in creative practice, I now work at Liverpool Hope University as a graduate assistant and I am currently looking towards applying for a PhD.

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