THE WORLD – A LIST OF ITEMS
Reality, Media, Data, Database
Summer 2011

WORLD
database

Frieder Nake

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Mike Weisser's Hyper:Inventory

An option for your term project

As you know, you are requested to work on a term project if you want to collect the credit points. Two options define the framework for your specific choice of the term project. You either do something in connection with the compArt daDA database, or in connection with Mike Weisser's database Hyper:Inventory. This note concerns the second option.

Mike Weisser is a media artist based in Bremen. He has published books on various topics in art and design, particularly on art nouveau (Jugendstil). He has written and published sience fiction novels. He has had a music label under which he has produced electronic music. He has an enormous production in fine art and photography. Many of his projects are of social or historic relevance.

About two years ago, he gave a truckload of his works to ZKM in Karlsruhe. It will there become the material for art-historic research in media art. In preparation for this shift, he has generated a large database of great precision that records all the works of his enormous production. He calls this database „Hyper:Inventory". It is, indeed, an inventory. And it is of a hyperstructure insofar as you can follow various paths through the inventory, select parts of it, and re-order them according to your needs.

You have the chance to work with this database (implemented in FileMaker). Mike Weisser is particularly interested in getting written reactions from you: reactions and reflections. He invites you to generate such reactions and reflections that he then wants to add to his material in the ZKM collection. So your reflections could become publicly available.

Specifically, Mike Weisser is interested in how people (you) approach something unknown and, perhaps, alien as, in this case, an artist's work, his work. He suggests that you write a report on how you approach a visit to an art exhibition. Something like

> *My true, thorough, personal, and critical account of how I prepared, and actually went, to visit Mark Weisser's exhibition of art.*

Here are some questions he suggests you may ask (concerning one of his shows, concerning any show you go to).

Do you do this spontaneously and intuitively? You just go, and look, and experience what?

Do you prepare well ahead of time (internet research)? Do you prepare questions, derive some answers, check them against the reality of the exhibition?

What does an invitation card do to you? Do you become curious? What is the relation between your pre-conceived judgement and the impression you gain from your visit?

When you come to the exhibition: what does the location, the surrounding, the building, the show room, the general atmospheric situation at the location do to you? Do they influence your experience of the arrangement of the show? How do the artefacts appear to you as materials and as signs? What does the show's title do to you?

The world – a list of items | Summer 2011 | for M.A. & M.Sc. Digital Media | others welcome
4 SWS | 6 ECTS | Module M-105 (research in media design) or independent study
Tuesday from 14:00 to 17:30 | HfK room 03.09.100 | starts 5 April 2011
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When you leave, and after the show, what new questions do emerge? Do you feel a need to talk with the artist? What sort of questions do you want to ask him?

Back home, do you start doing more about the artist's work? Like reading books, researching the internet, searching Hyper:Inventory?

Think about and write about your emotions, the appearance, arrangements, architecture, information, media specifics of the show, and more.

Mike Weisser is happy to provide a CD-ROM with his Hyper:Inventory (for Mac or Windows, independent of FileMaker), postcards, catalogues, and other ephemerals. I hope that some of you will accept this invitation as a kind of layered and structured research in media design.