

"Extrospective remixing"

-BY SAMIXHA



When I think about the kind of medium I use for art now - code/visual nodes, new media, it's an amalgamation of techniques and things I learned from my first journeys with art.

I look at all mediums as data, and love to mix, re-mix and experiment and interpret playfully ways I can use technology with painting, or painting with writing, or writing

with plants, etc etc, I am constantly looking at my surroundings as clay, something to mold into a unique creation I can call my own.

I believe I developed this day-dreaming playfulness as an only child when I was growing up. I have fondest memories of a windows 98 desktop, boxy and wired, on a small table. As children we anthropomorphise naturally, and so I spent a lot of time with that computer, not as a toy or a tool, but as a companion. The internet was in its early days, classic 90's kid with html games that crashed halfway through and bizarre pre-social media websites and MMORPG's that still held innocent exploration in it's design.



I guess I was the first of a proto-i-pad kid of that generation. When I used to describe it to friends with siblings or big families they always tended to ask if I was lonely, but it is only in retrospect as an adult that I think that.

As a child I truly felt taken away into strange new worlds inside that screen and I never felt like there was anything missing in my life.

When I first exhibited a firmer interest in art in high school, I saw that graphic design was a viable career and out of kindness, a teacher who wasn't even from my class, would give me after school session on photoshop weekly.

He was my friend's father and an animation expert and there was no one else who understood the software better than him in the entire school.

I always hold place in my heart for him, as he re-introduced me to something that took me to where I am today.

When I was in college graduating from my design course, I was so lost that I didn't even know what to produce or create for my final exhibition. The final show didn't even have anything to do with design as it was so haphazard and experimental, partly due to my laziness at the time.

A man who would become my dear mentor over the years picked me up and invited me to join his small company, despite me having no work experience at all. He had no creative background but had wild ideas and over the years we produced a lot of work together. He is also someone I hold dearly in my heart everytime I create something.

The reason I share all this, is to give some insight into what I feel is my extrospective way of approaching my art. Instead of expressing my thoughts or emotions, I find that each of my works is a collage of the companions that have shaped me and I try to piece them together through the experiences I build, to tie all the loose threads into one cohesive piece.

It is only when they all come together, the computer, the environment, the people, that I feel a meditative creative hum and fulfilment with my work.

Process for the workshop -



I printed out 6-7 A4 pieces of my digital photos taken during the residency of natural elements I felt drawn to and handed various art materials to each participant. I shared my process as a new media artist of basically remixing, reusing and repurposing existing ideas, photos, data inputs using software inspired by my emotional outlook at the time. The theme I chose for this workshop was "companionship". Using any artistic medium they wish, they were invited to extrospect - think of the companions in their life who made them as artists and "re-mix" lay over or mess up my print in any way they wish, to mark our intersections in that moment. This was to invite the other artists into my process without the necessity of digital media tools, and instead focus on the emotional and technical aspects of collaging in that moment.



What happened -

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What was the outcome -

Various collages, with enriching stories from each participant about what it means to them and how they integrated my process into the piece. Afterwards I took digital scans of each artwork and used projection to reflect it back through an installation to showcase how every individual piece has now become further

"remixed" and become a new experience. In this way I was able to showcase the process of how technology morphs and erases but also re-combines and brings new meaning to myself and my work.

