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OPEN CALL
RESEARCH ARTS

THE PROJECT OF THE MONTH (Jan/Apr 2014): »From RAABLAB online interfaces to local offline cooperation: the interdisciplinary REVALUING MEMORY workshops at Kiblix Festival« (English)

»From RAABLAB online interfaces to local offline cooperation: the interdisciplinary REVALUING MEMORY workshop at MRFU-KIBLIX2013 Festival«.

Dan Norton und Stella Veciana



The Raablab interface developed by Norton and Veciana in 2013.

Digital collections and archives contain hitherto unimaginable amounts of knowledge, which is potentially easy to access and share. At the same time information becomes lost in the archive. Browsing is currently arduous in digital material. How do we invigorate the contents of archives and revalue them? Can interaction with stored memory in archives and libraries, transform them into generative tools for production and discovery?

RAABLAB (Research arts + [ablab](#)) addresses exactly these research questions. RAABLAB is a preliminary project developed by Dan Norton and Stella Veciana which is the combination of two practices.

Norton's practice as ablab works to transform interaction with information representations into experience of audiovisual and physical space, and playful action. His practice develops audiovisual instruments from archive material.

Veciana's practice collects new approaches and research models within the intersection of art, science and technology for a research agenda in this field and explores new ways to read and process information that bridges creative and scientific means for building knowledge.

The RAABLAB interface

These two practices/methods have first been brought together in an online interface, where Norton built a tool for accessing and recombining the knowledge developed in the practice of Veciana and stored in the Research Arts online collection of new research lines.

This interface, called Raablab, was the first collaborative project from the »Synergy: Interdisciplinary Practice and Theory« workshop organized by [HANGAR](#), a cultural centre based in Barcelona, and the online platform [Grid Spinoza](#). The workshop was a part of the [Soft Control](#) project, an interdisciplinary project funded by the Cultural Program of the European Union.

The Raablab interface is a simple mechanism for building new compositions of sound, image, and text through playful exploration of imagery. The interface changes images into triggers that sample texts from the Research-Arts archive of essays creating new links and connections.

The unusual combinations that are generated from the RA archive offer alternate possibilities and bridges *between* stored content. It is the possibility of the *between*, which Veciana and Norton continue to explore in a series of interdisciplinary workshops they are staging.

The REVALUING MEMORY workshops

The [REVALUING MEMORY workshops](#) are a developing project that brings together artists and scientists to explore interaction techniques that can facilitate different bridges between individual knowledge bases and skill sets. This process of building links is called *connected art* practice. The workshops are based around the simple creative behaviours of selecting and mixing to build connectivity. These behaviours are developed from systems for interacting with sound and music, and particularly from the way a DJ (disc jockey) works creatively with a collection of records. In the workshops a setting is created to connect and integrate personal work into a common narrative and from this process to co-design a local shared practice.

One of these workshops was conducted at the [MRFU-KIBLIX2013 Art Science Technology Festival](#). The REVALUING MEMORY workshop focused around the events' theme on "the (co)existence of bios and techne" within the frame of the festivals "Workshopology". Workshop





REVALUING MEMORY workshop at MRFU-KIBLIX2013, 6th November 2013 (Photos: Bostjan Lah).

participants included Monika Pocrnjić, Andrej Firm, Nataša Berk, Tomaž Grušovnik, Borut Popenko, Žiga Bobek, Jerneja Rebernak and Darinka Verdonik.

Each participant brought to the workshop a work of art or research that is, or is represented by an object no bigger than a potato. During the one-day event, participants shared their knowledge and developed skills and resources to collaborate with each other for a joint sustainable network in Maribor.

The workshop process developed around questions as to how can the practitioners implicit knowledge/memory be shared? How can knowledge/memory be re-valued, and through a process of reevaluation be integrated in shared practice? The workshop generated sematic field of connections around each participant's potatoe, and out of this web of betweenness grew a concept for a co-designed local project: "KULT I NOVACIJA".

"KULT I NOVACIJA" - Mobile Art&Science School

The co-designed local project KULT I NOVACIJA is an Art&Science school to be hosted in a mobile caravan. It will bring together art practitioners, cultural producers, scientists, and technologists from within the community, to share knowledge, teach, research, and practice in public space. KULT I NOVACIJA is conceived as a mobile unit to tour market places, and other city districts where people gather, where it will offer free drop-in workshops and presentations to enable knowledge sharing in public.

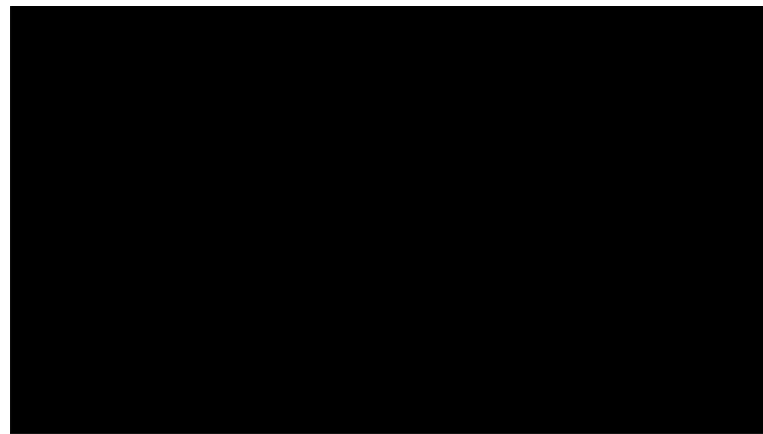
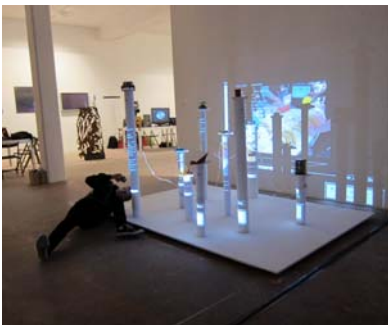
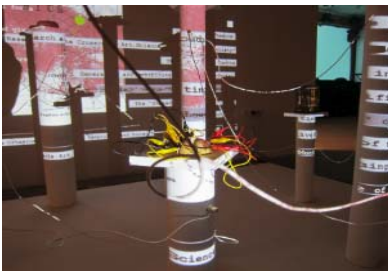
The workshops will be free, and the first 'University on the Street Lab' of Slovenia's future Art&Science educational program. An important aim of KULT I NOVACIJA will be to demonstrate value for the future establishment of Slovenia's first University based Art, Science, and Technology educational facility.

Market-goers each week will be able to learn, consider, and discuss a wide variety of research topics, and be able to share their own skills and knowledge. Artists, scientists, and engineers will place their research in completely fresh contexts, literally in the marketplace of ideas.

The project revalues and reuses materials, knowledge, tools, and practices. The Mobile Art&Science School will share creativity and enjoyment, as well as educate practitioners and the participants alike. KULT I NOVACIJA will explore the value of sharing research in the common repository of *general knowledge*.

The KULT I NOVACIJA project and the objects of the participants of the workshop generated the »Revaluing memory« installation for the KIBLIX Festival. The visitors could play and experiment interactively with the Raablabs audiovisual interface in the real space of the exhibition.

The following interview explains with more details the development of the whole project presented at the KIBLIX festival:



Interview, Stella Veciana about MFRU-KIBLIX2013 workshop, Maribor, November 2013.

[comment](#)

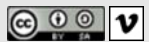
»Revaluing memory« Installation representing common narrative and co-designed project at MRFU-KIBLIX2013, Maribor, 2013 (Photos: Dan Norton, Stella Veciana).



Dr. Dan Norton - Studied Fine Art at the Glasgow School of Art, and Electronic Imaging at the University of Dundee. In 2009 he co-founded WAKA Espai d'Art, an independent artist-led gallery in Palma Spain. PhD thesis entitled "Mixing the Library: Information Interaction and the DJ." Previously Associate Lecturer at University of Dundee, College of Art and Engineering, Scotland. [more](#)



Dr. Stella Veciana - Studies in Experimental arts at the UdK University of Arts Berlin, Computer Arts at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and Cultural Policy & Management at the University Barcelona. Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Barcelona and author for online master modules at the Postgraduate Institute of Madrid. PhD dissertation entiteled "Research arts: the interface between art, science and technology as a field of knowledge and action" at the University of Barcelona. [more](#)



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