

Transformation Digital Art 2020: Documenting Digital Art

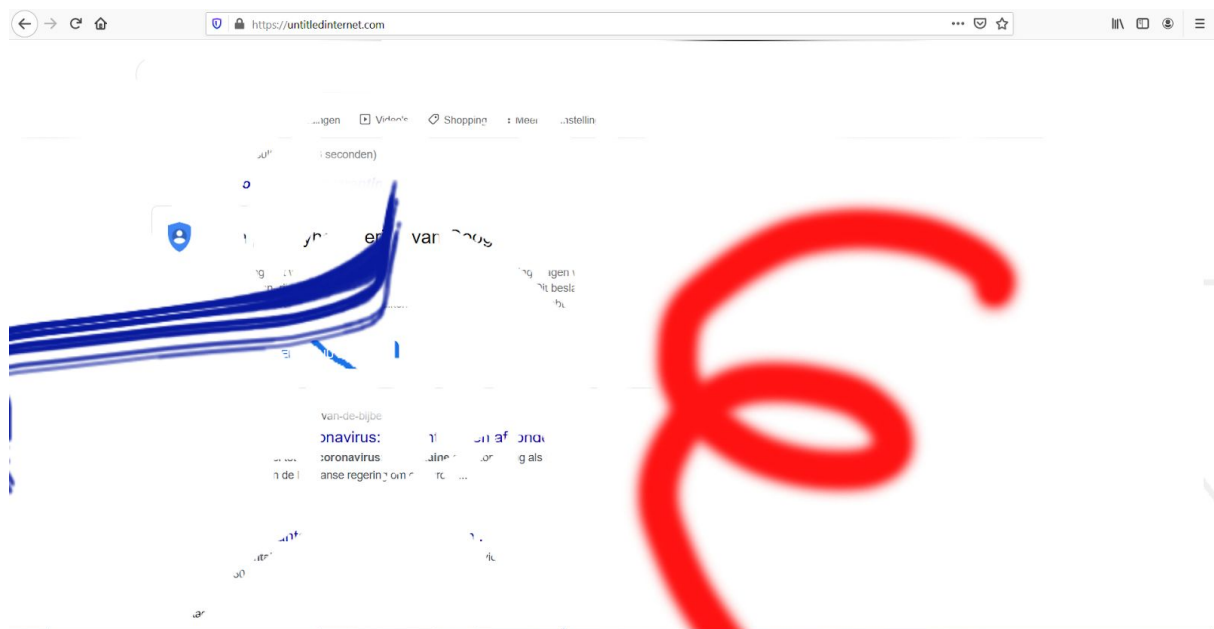
Constant Dullaart

untitledinternet.com, 2012

net art

Mila van der Weide, LIMA

June 16th, 13:30 - 15:00 o'clock



Constant Dullaart, *untitledinternet.com* (2012). Screenshot, 26 May, 2020.

untitledinternet.com is a net art piece which the artist describes as a ‘performative collage’.

The website displays a Google startpage with a particular look, as it is overlaid by a filter that partly obscures the web page. The search function is thereby fully maintained, allowing the user to browse the internet through this customized search engine. Each time the user reloads the page, a new filter appears, and retrieved information is partly erased by distinct brushstrokes, pen scratches or airbrush doodles, reminiscent of the tools in MS Paint. As such, the artist provides the tools or context, and the user - as well as the server - creates collages with this context through the act of browsing.

By obscuring the search giant's web page, while simultaneously turning the entire internet into a painted collage, *untitledinternet.com* is a comment on the neutrality of Google and its hidden algorithms that structure information. Originally, Dullaart used `iframe` to create his work, an HTML element that can be used to embed a website frame into another website. Dullaart placed the entire Google in the `iframe`. However, Google later blocked the use of `iframe`, and to keep the work accessible Dullaart created a workaround in the form of a dedicated proxy. *untitledinternet.com* was furthermore blacklisted by Google, as well as some other Google-based works by Dullaart, for the potential phishing threat that these works posed.

documentation approach

The work depends heavily on Google and its censoring power, both technically as well as conceptually. Considering the rapid changes in (internet) technologies, as well as Google's safety measurements, adapting the work is inevitable to keep it online functioning. A case study report is

made, the work is described in our collection information system . The domain name, artwork files and the source code that together make up the work (server side) are stored at LIMA, in a system of virtual servers called ArtHost <https://www.li-ma.nl/lima/article/arthost>. For the browserside we aim collaborate with Rhizome.

For *untitledinternet.com*, as well as for other web-based works that are preserved in ArtHost, we create a video documentation in which the work itself, the interactivity as well as the artist reflecting on (the functionality of) his work were captured. This approach was inspired by the Dullaart-Sakrowski method, a documentation method for net art in which the use of split screen video image is used as a way to move beyond documenting merely technical specifications and interactivity but also emphasizes the ‘reception situation’.

In LIMA’s video documentation the idea of the splitscreen was adopted, and the artist is filmed while interacting with the work, reflecting on its future, on its concept, as well as on the creation process. The viewer can follow the artist’s browsing and the work’s behaviour by means of a screen recording. In preparation, a list of questions was sent to the artist. As opposed to a classical interview with an interviewer and interviewee, we chose to have the artist tell us about the artwork in his own way. We considered this appropriate for this work that has so many layers and that offers multiple possibilities for improvising and creating ways to display the world through the filters that the artist provided.

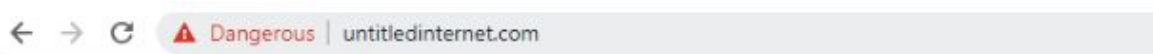
Main questions in our research:

- When does the work cease to exist, when does it becomes something else, i.e. documentation?
- How can the work be displayed in the future, within in a museum/ gallery context?

Some links:

<http://aaaan.net/documenting-internet-based-art-the-dullaart-sakrowski-method/>

<http://net.artdatabase.org/>



For more information please visit

https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/jAIS0q_QS8FHKg

<https://constantdullaart.com/google.html>

<http://theuntitledinternet.com/>

Constant Dullaart, *untitledinternet.com* (2012), screenshot of the work when blocked by Google, 2019.