

To be or not to be Mouchette

Me, Mouchette, the online virtual character, I have an unusual status of existence. Regarding the art of my website (www.mouchette.org) I am the author and the creation at the same time, and yet through my remote internet life I remain invisible, anonymous, genderless, untouchable, neither alive or dead. The participants of my interactive website confide in me in the most intimate way, because I am an imaginary being, living in their own head. With me people feel free to talk about everything because in the privacy of their own thoughts, no subject is taboo, fear, pain, life and death, or even the temptation of suicide.

With the reactions of the participants to my website I have composed animation films displaying many of the texts I received, spoken out through speech bubbles by pixellated characters who tell their most private thoughts. One of these animation films takes place in a court room where people express their attraction for suicide and cry out for help. In another animation, inside a cartoonish supernatural stage set, the characters speak about immortality and other metaphysical subjects while I'm repeatedly asking the same question "How can I write this since I'm dead?"

My personality embraces all of my participants' minds and together we form a collective consciousness pondering over questions of life and death in the digital era.

And like in the famous Hamlet monologue, to be or not to be Mouchette, that is the question!

Credits

The works presented in the show were made with the collaboration of Marc Boon and Jose Nuno Pereira. They were partly created in a residency in May 2007 at "La Chambre Blanche" in Quebec city, Canada. They are screen-captures of about 15 minutes each, written on DVDs, of different animations created with Flash Macromedia. They are presented on large size flat panels, using a DVD player.

Titles of the animation films and screen captures:

- Immortality
- Ghost city
- Suicide Kit
- Evenings
- Lullaby for a Dead Fly
- I Hate Mouchette

The work "Immortality" remains part of the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Siegen.

Links

Mouchette
<http://mouchette.org>

A blog about the exhibition
<http://siegen.mouchette.org/>

"Suicide kit" (What is the best way to kill yourself when you're under 13?)
<http://mouchette.org/suicide/>

"Lullaby for a dead fly" (How can I write this since I'm dead?)
<http://mouchette.org/fly/flyies.html>

"I Hate Mouchette"
<http://www.ihatemouchette.org/read.php>

List of artistic events and articles (CV)
<http://mouchette.org/cv/>



Jennie



Donna Elder



mouchette

How can I write this since I'm dead? And why did you kill me?

would you want to know my name?

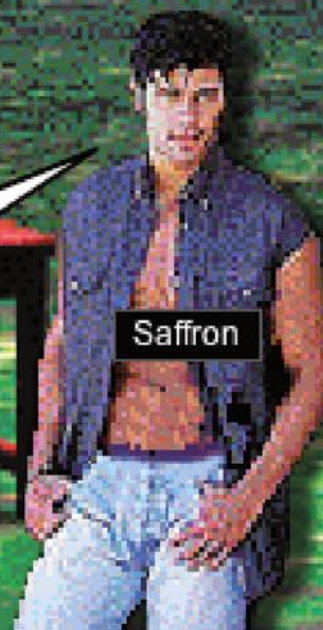
If you are going to kill yourself do it so that you manage it. I tried and failed. I am alive minus my legs.

I'll probably just end up becoming a drug addict or something. I really don't care anymore. My life just seems so useless.

one very lost teenager



Saffron





Brittney



Still Dreaming

I am 16 and i am an adopted kid of this old lady who says she cares but puts me to work like a slave.



sucidalmonked



leanne

I thought that getting drunk and wrecking my car would have been the best.



Jon

I watched my best friend committ suicide.. I watched the life drain from her body.



Megan



josh edmond

My mom knows i am gay and hates me.



I am seriously thinking about killing my mom and then killing myself.

What is the best way to kill yourself when you're under 13? Please, help me!

mouchette

Lezard Vale

I just turned 13 today and i dont really give a fuk. Ever since I was 6 I wanted to commit suicide.

Terri





Josh Edmond



Today i took a buch
of pills and my mom
found out and took
me to the hospital.

Lezard Vale

I cut my wrists in
numerous places and
I also have aids from
fucking so many
people and i'm

Becca

I am 13 possibly
pregnant and my
boyfriend just broke
up with me.. i have
been suicidal before.

kerrie

NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE



mouchette

How can I write
this since I'm dead?
And why did you
kill me?



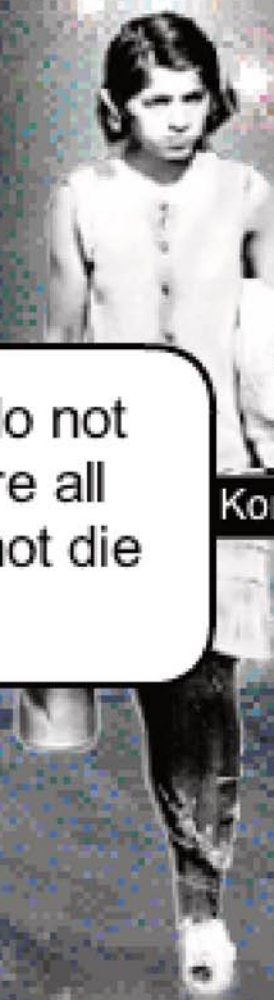
Vanessa Badham

On the internet,
nobody dies. We are
all caught, as flies, in
electronic
immortality.



Valerie

Maybe we all do not
exist and we are all
dead and cannot die
much more ?



Kor



ChrisIncFlow



THISraineisREAL



Tony Jarman



mouchette

Why did you kill me? And how can I write this since I'm dead?

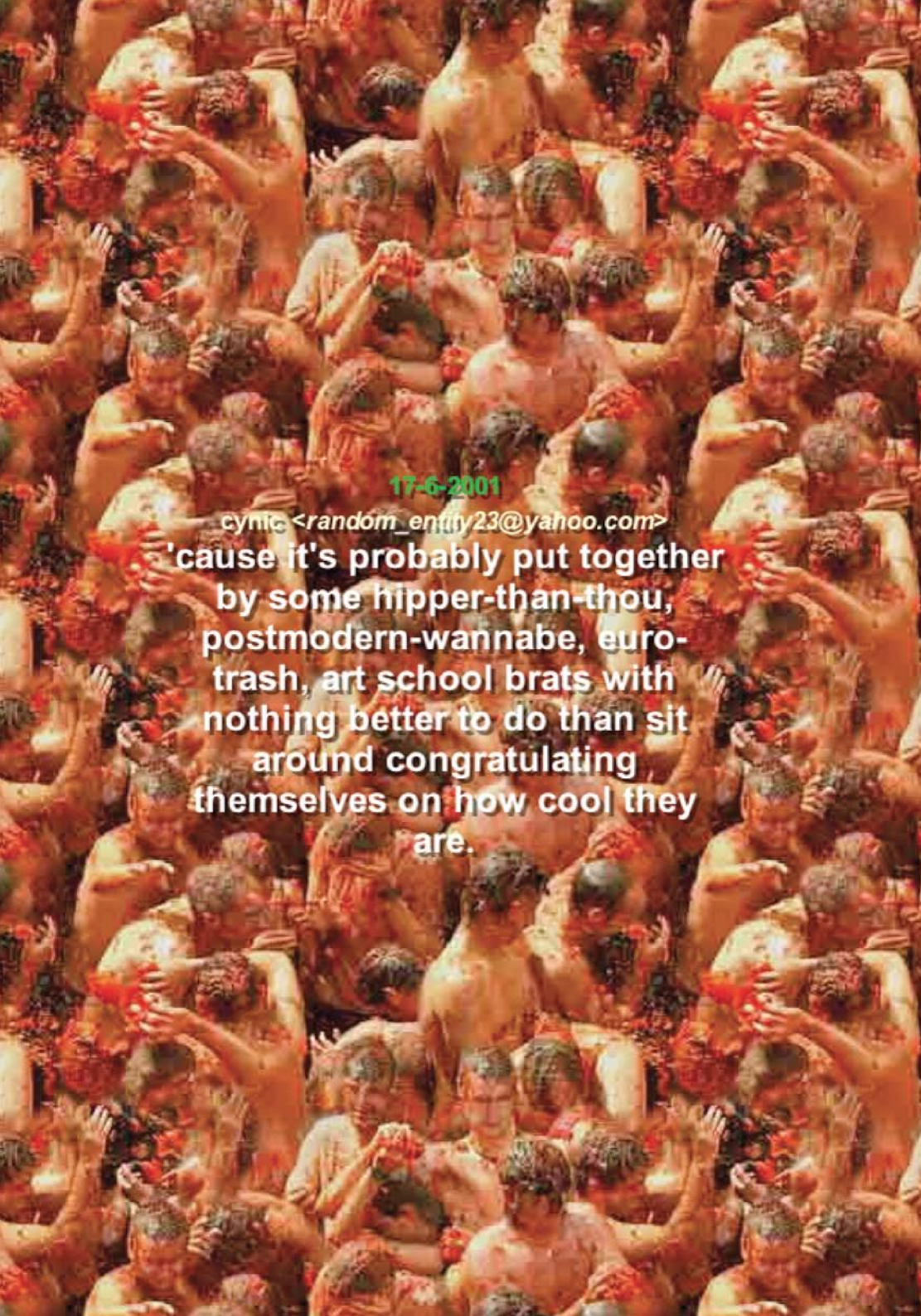


greg

Death never happens on-line. If you are immortalized as little bits of code on some obscure server,



Idiotbrainchild



17-6-2001

cynic <random_entity23@yahoo.com>

'cause it's probably put together
by some hipper-than-thou,
postmodern-wannabe, euro-
trash, art school brats with
nothing better to do than sit
around congratulating
themselves on how cool they
are.

From DL Hansen

Date: 18-06-2001

mail: lep58@hotmail.com

She is stuck in a fantasy world. A place where abstract questions are pondered, but nothing comes of it. She is wasting her life and in turn the lives of those that find her »appealing« or »artistic«. It's sickening.

From bull

Date: 18-06-2001

mail: trickytoro@operamail.com

She mislead me into thinking I was contributing to a wonderful aesthetically enriching site but I see now that I have been misled by a sick deviant perverted miscreant! I am sick inside over her vulgar display of prurient filth! I would love nothing more than to return the aural/visual assault my delicate senses have suffered by her shocking lewd and stomach churning vomit she continues to perpetuate on the innocent victims of her lurid hoax.

From Leigh

Date: 18-06-2001

mail: bulk@toychicken.co.uk

I hate Mouchette. That's why I killed the cat.

I suppose, if you were looking for a reason, it all started when she made the transition from interesting cyber-art project, and started filling my valuable brain-space with thoughts that I never knew that I could harbour. The stench of rotting flesh fills my every waking moment, and visions of dead cats haunt my dreams. I have given up my job, so that I may dedicate more time to hunting the bitch down and ridding the world of this sociopath. I have to go now, the trees are screaming...

From Corny

Date: 22-06-2001

mail: zebra@ymail.de

Ich hasse alles was hilflos und klein ist- so klebrig und völlig unnütz in all ihren tätigkeiten. Ich hasse es, wenn du mich mit deinen riesigen glupschaugen anglotzt, deinen mund nichtssagend bewegst, deine runden drehst und dabei nichts als zeit verlierst- Mouchette niemand will dich.....

From Carl Sandor

Date: 03-07-2001

mail: sandor@shitface.org

I hate mouchette because there's no porn on her website. What good is a website with no porn? Porn is what the internet was made for, not some stupid art that no one understands.

From doug
mail: kill.kitty@pod.ca

Date: 18-06-2001

Because she's a dirty little slag and that her site is a pathetic waste of valuable cyber space. She's ego-crazed, attention seeking little brat. Mouchette is damaged goods and her site is basically a lifestyle magazine for paedophiles and perverted weirdos with trendy suicidal tendencies. Her sick, ever-so-fashionable, morbid fascination with death needs to be put out of its misery.

From carmen
mail: sapphire_angel00@yahoo.com

Date: 19-06-2001

I find this person very hard to believe to be young! Or at least had a fucked up childhood! I went to the site because I was looking for an easy way out. But now I'm ashamed of that time, and the scars that followed it. And what I really desire to know is why the hell would you put that up at such a young age, and then e-mail the people who post crap telling them that they can actually ruin lives. Ok, little girl I'm American, obviously you're not~! I never met anyone that would gladly pull some shit like that! And honestly that is totally nothing to be proud of for what Mouchette did! I'm ashamed of even writing that. But she or he or what ever it is, should feel a world of pain for probably causing more deaths than will ever even create!

From JC
mail: Sweetnsassy582@aol.com

Date: 19-06-2001

I hate mouchette because she made this dumbass site on how to kill yourself and shit and stupid ways to do it. Suicide isn't a joke so she should get that through her thick-headed skull. If you are gonna waste space on the net at least do it with something that will actually mean something to people. She is just a dumb bitch and I hope someone close to her ends up killing themselves, so she can see how serious it is. Thank you.

From psyphex
mail: necropsyphex@hotmail.com

Date: 21-06-2001

Inside outside, upside down, like a door which lets me in and out but never opens., you forget your name your consciousness and the »self«, the »i«, down in a hole on sedatives and tears.

From Umami Bhavanga
mail: jbookout@telepath.com

Date: 18-06-2001

Because I fear her. She holds my heart in her cold little hands.

