

# Short Lightning Talk on Archives

## Screen recordings and reinterpretations

### From archiving to creation

[VISIONS.OF.MOUCHETTE.ORG](http://visions.of.mouchette.org)

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#### Abstract

Mouchette is an iconic virtual character from the early net.art time. Fourteen screen recordings of her website have been found online on Youtube channels. These videos are documenting the viewing practices of some visitors, the way they browse the website mouchette.org the way they comment their visit, and how they embed it inside their own narrative, stories of horror, of magic or of seduction. These recordings are an exceptional archival of this website recorded by the viewers in very different ways.

#### Introduction

For a website like mouchette.org triggering interaction and participative experience, screen recordings are a frequent practice. They are used for archival, due to the fast changing online environment, and they are used in art exhibition since museums and galleries rely mostly on frontal viewing and wall hanging. Screen recordings as I know them are simply functional, a usual way of archival.

But what if a trove of screen recordings of Mouchette.org, full of creativity and imagination is found on Youtube channels, videos made by young people browsing and recording this website to express their personality and feelings, hoping to gather interest, sensation, and a spectatorship of their own? When the public extends the narratives to their own fancy, rather than archival, we are reaching towards collaborative creation or fan-fiction. This is what happened when Nikos Voyiatzis found all these videos recordings of Russian kids visiting mouchette.org and telling stories about it.

For me, the author of Mouchette.org, the participative aspect of the website is the core of my creation since the very early net.art period when interactive narratives were created with users'

participations kept inside huge databases, kept and maintained to this day, and reworked into new creations. So what a wonderful gift it is to fall upon a new generation of internet users who have invented their own practices to represent and share their reactions to my website!

Among these recordings you can meet:

- -Victoria in the 'Viktory Show' channel on Youtube who plays a cute teenager girl, a 'Mouchette-like' personality, pretending to discover the website with surprise and bewilderment.
- -Nikitos and Romanos, too young brothers presenting 'Fears Show', episodes of the scary and supernatural stories that stage and enact physically in their own room and where they digitally insert as screams, animations, gifs and other disturbing elements of their own making inside the website of Mouchette.org.
- -You can also meet some very young kids who have difficulty in typing the URL of mouchette.org on the Russian keyboard of their phone and still manage to record their screen and post it to a Youtube channel, with their own comments and mumblings and a tiny thumbnail of their face in the top of their video.

Within mouchette.org, these are all valid collaborative creations, worthy of finding a place inside my website. In the same way that viewers reactions were and still are, kept and reworked into new pieces, a space inside mouchette.org has been devoted to these visions of mouchette.org, to host these films and give full access to viewers through english subtitles from the comments in Russian. I created a subdomain on the website mouchette.org, where I host all the videos

<https://visions.of.mouchette.org/>

First, together with Nikos Yoyiatzis who originally found them, I archived these videos on my archival website, with original technical data and all the comments:

<http://about.mouchette.org/category/archiving/by-nikos/>

And then I proposed them as online exhibitions in their full right.

Here it was exhibited insi The Wrong Biennale.

[https://artsubstitute.net/index\\_en.html](https://artsubstitute.net/index_en.html)

<https://artsubstitute.net/neddam.html>

My next step will be to show these works in the physical space in exhibitions as a part of the creation of mouchette.org.