A Virtual Memorial
Memorial project against the Forgetting and for Humanity

A Virtual Memorial-
Memorial project against the Forgetting and for Humanity
www.a-virtual-memorial.org
is an ongoing New Media art project created mainly in Flash and
installed in Internet by
media artist Agricola de Cologne since 01.01.2000.
Central subject represent existential questions of human existence
connected to
"Remembering-Repressing-Forgetting".

It is an ongoing work in progress with a variety of aims.
One purpose is to keep vivid memories of global, local or
personal relevance
such as Holocaust, genocide, expulsion, persecution,
catastrophes like AIDS, perspectives on the future
as genetics, misuse of power or behaviour and
subjective experiences of individuals from all parts of our globe.
It is an interactive project on different levels, uses the
Internet according to its own rules not only as a location or
public space but also as a resource in different concerns,
and represents as a whole a symbol for collective memory.

The project follows the rules of the Internet and is continuously
changing. Each month a new project version is published:
with new additions, changes in perception, technology and design.

The project reflects both physical and virtual world in different ways.

A virtual sculpture is developing from collective memory and
expanding like the Universe since the big bang.

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Many of the multi-media works created for this virtual environment are extracted and collected as stand-alone applications in 'Agricola de Cologne Moving Picture Collection'. The large quantity of works to be created asked for a fast and effective way of working, and in this way Agricola developed his individual way of experimental electronic writing, the principle of
'**Simultaneous Associative Media Art**

Agricola uses his different creative talents in order to develop his individual interdisciplinary language of electronic composing/writing by using words (text), image and sound (music and spoken words) at the same time.

The works (thematically fixed or not, often enough even without being based on a pre-fixed conception or script) come up more or less spontaneously during one single long lasting working process (in video-like works as "Never wake up". Pre-fixed theme : loss of identity) or during a series of sessions of a days lasting continuing artistic process (in more complex interactive constructions as "Transience - an atonal composition").

One fundamental condition and a particular element of tension represents a profound knowledge and experience in all those media disciplines - rather driven by associating and the chaos principle - to be used – corresponding and communicating with each other internally as well as externally with the code driven hard- and software. Having all that spiritualised, the desired mutual inspiring effect progresses.

Musical components play, in general, an important part in Agricola's art working. As he states, only "when he has music inside", all his creative powers are flourishing up. This kind of music coming deep from the bottom of his soul, manifests itself externally through the artist's voice, it

represents the fertile soil on which he is able to prepare his work like a gardener (not to be mixed up with sound and music as part of the final art work).

His concentration is always focused on the whole, even if the final result is completely unknown, yet. Since the involved components do not stand alone or come up sometimes later and are combined, merged or assimilated at a later state, but communicate with each other simultaneously during the process, the unity of the work come up in an act of highest concentration, which mostly does not need any additional correction afterwards (even if at a later state different project versions should be created).

This kind of working is particularly successful, when the works to be created have a volume and durance which can be overviewed (and in this way "controlled"). This is good with most net based works, also because of technological reasons.
What kind of components - word, image or sound – have an initial effect at the beginning of a working phase, is individually different.

The progressive poetic structures of SAMAC (developed as a consequent continuation of the artist's "divisionistic principle") find their counterpart in hardware and software continuously to be adjusted to the latest developments of technology and perception.

Only a small scale of software applications are actually used: Besides Adobe 'Photoshop' (and connected plug-ins), Sonic Foundry's 'Sound Forge' and ULEAD 'Media Studio Pro', it is, above all, Flash (Macromedia) which corresponds and communicates perfectly with Agricola's associative working system enforcing intuitively any artistic idea on different levels.

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Following works originating from 'A Virtual Memorial' are created according 'Simultaneous Associative Media Art Composing'

Hans a true story (interactive, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume4/hans.htm
Never wake up* (DVD, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/never/never.html
Transience – an atonal composition (interactive, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/trans/transience.html
Watch: Seconds: Forever (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/seconds/watch1.htm
Identity of Colour * (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume3/identity.html
Compressed Affair (interactive, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/collections/compressed_affair1.htm
Beyond all media *(interactive, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume5/beyond.html
Redirection 1944 (DVD, 2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume6/redirection.html
Voice of the Light (Martin Luther King) (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume6/voiceofthelight.html
Competition (Harry Truman) (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume6/competition.html
No individuality (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume4/individuality.html
Karposi Park * (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume3/karposi.html
Grenzen der Immunitaet (Limits of immunity) (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume8/grenzen.html
Elegy (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume7/elegy.html
UM-Leitung (redirection) (2001)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume8/umleitung.html
Close Encounters (2002)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume4/close_encounters.html
]and_scape[(2002)
http://www.nmartproject.net/agricola/mpc/volume3/and_scape1.html

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A Virtual Memorial participated 2000-2002 in following conferences, exhibition, festivals

2000
Werkleitz Biennale (Germany)
Exchange 2000 Media Conference and exhibition University of Bristol (UK)
2001
*16th Videoformes Festival Clermont Ferrand (F)
*Station Rose WebCast Lounge at Art Frankfurt (Germany)
*File - Electronic Language Festival 2001 - Sao Paolo and Curitiba City (Brazil)
*Circus 2001 Conference Glasgow (UK)
*Computer Space 2001 Festival Sofia (Bulgaria) – 2nd Prize Foreign Multimedia
*Prix Ars Electronica Linz (Austria)
*Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK) and 4th International Conference on Modern
 Technology and Processes for Art, Media and Design, Bangkok (Thailand)
2002
**Version02 Festival – Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (USA)
Medienturm Graz (Austria) - Feature

Multimedia works created for the 'A Virtual Memorial' environment participated 2001-2002 in following festivals, exhibitions

2001
Never wake up
Torino Digital Clip Festival 2001 (Italy)
Casting a Net McLean Project of the Arts (USA)
Computer Space 2001 Sofia (Bulgaria)
Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK)
4th International Meeting of Experimental Poetry Buenos Aires (Argentina)
2nd Interpoetry Exhibition 2001 Sao Paolo (Brazil)
Biennale de Cerveira (Portugal)
Feature on Medienturm Graz (Austria)

Watch : Seconds :Forever
DMF 2001 Manila (Philippines)
Media Art Festival Friesland (the Netherlands)

Transience – an atonal composition
Links Oporto (Portugal)
Art on the Net (Japan)
Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK)
4th International Meeting of Experimental Poetry Buenos Aires (Argentina)
2nd Interpoetry Exhibition Sao Paolo (Brazil)

Screening: Seconds: Forever
Lite Show Festival Boston (USA)
Viper Computer Art Festival Basel (Switzerland)

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Identity of Color
2nd Interpoetry Exhibition Sao Paolo (Brazil)
DMF 2001 Manila (Philippines)
Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK)
File Festival Sao Paolo (Brazil)

A Virtual Memorial
16th Videoformes Festival Clermont Ferrand (France)
File Electronic Language Festival Sao Paolo (Brazil)
Circus 2001 Conference and Exhibition Glasgow (UK)
Computer Space 2001 Sofia (Bulgaria)
LINKS Oporto (Portugal)
Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK)
Feature on Medienturm Graz (Austria)

Compressed Affair
Pixxelpoint Computer Art Festival Nova Goricia (Slovenia)
Sonar Festival Barcelona (Spain)

Work: No answers
Net-z-lab Internet Award (Germany)
DMF 2001 Manila (Philippines)
File Electronic Language Festival Sao Paolo (Brazil)

Fields of Identity
Net_working Watershed Media Centre Bristol (UK)

2002
Never wake up
HAZE – hive-projects Toronto (Canada)
Detroit Video Festival (USA)
17th Videoformes Festival Clermont Ferrand (France)
Free Biennial New York (USA)
New Media Line Kanon Media Vienna (Austria)

Identity of Colour
17th Videoformes Festival Clermont Ferrand (France)
Free Biennial New York (USA)
ISEA Nagoya (Japan)
Thaw02 – Iowa City (USA)
New Media Line Kanon Media Vienna (Austria)
About Vision – Digital art exhibition London (UK)

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Redirecion
Video Festival Detroit (USA)

Three Elements
Condition of the Cube (Wroclaw/Poland)

Le Musee di-visioniste
The Open Museum – Irish Museum of Modern Art Dublin (Ireland)

Hans - a true story
New Media Line – KanonMedia (Vienna/Austria)

Transience_ an atonal composition
Thaw02 Festival - Iowa University Museum of Art – Iowa City (USA)

My Pocket Camera
Digital Pocket Gallery online (USA)

]and_scape[
Feature on Medienturm Graz (Austria)

Close Encounters
UFO Convention – Contemporary Art Centre Chisinau (Moldavia)

The NewMediaArtProjectNetwork and its corporate sites are:

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http://www.a-virtual-memorial.org

JavaMuseum – Forum for Internet Technologies in Contemporary Art
http://www.javamuseum.org

Le Musee-di-visioniste - http://www.le-musee-divisioniste.org

ENGAD – Engaged Artists Directory - http://www.engad.org

Nmartproject.net - http://www.nmartproject.net

Agricola de Cologne Virtuals - http://www.agricola-de-cologne.de