**Artistic research**

Lieve van den Nieuwenhoff (0931135)

Research starts with some sort of interest. Every approach of defining this interest is possible. Whether it is by talking to other persons about the subject, give it some thought myself, finding a philosopher sharing this same interest or an artist that made work or wrote about this subject. Artistic Research, as Borgdorff describes in one of the first sentences in the Essay Production of Knowledge in Artistic Research: “It invites unfinished thinking, not formal knowledge but thinking in, through and with art.” (Borgdorff, H., 2010). In this Artistic Research paper I will share my unfinished thinking on hacking, systems and the process of this project.

**Hacking.**

When starting this project ideas came to my mind very quickly. “What is hacking” should be one of the first questions I had. What should the action of hacking contain and how would I like to hack some sort of system. To understand a subject I’m working with, I need to understand the definition of the subject. My research began with the definition of hacking. “The gaining of unauthorized access to data in a system or computer.” (Oxford Languages, n.d.).

**Systems.**

It is clear that some sort of systems tend to be very obvious to hack, but what about those autonomous systems that we are maybe not even aware of. Traffic for example, this phenomenon started with one vehicle and many decennia later it’s this autonomous system where the reactions are infinite. How could a system like this be hacked, or could be used by hacking another system. Simon Weckert, with his Google Maps Hacks, that creates a non-existing traffic jam on Google Maps is a great example (Weckert, S., 2020). Using online data, thereby hacking, the online extended system that uses traffic as a subject, to make the real time online data differs from the real time offline date.

Another system, human behavior or the traits that we know for humans, are given as an absolute by society. Other artists have tried to hack these before. Ivan Illich has this view on society where we should be educated in and about society in another way (Illich, I., 1995). Redesigning this system. Isn’t that also a way of hacking the contemporary system?
Johan Huizinga pleading that grown ups should to play again is another example. A system where grown ups need to be ‘grown up’ and don’t play anymore is the norm (Huizinga, J., 2019). These examples, of grown up behavior or education in society, actually are, social constructs. There are more options of educating, as Illich writes. There’re more possibilities to behave as a grown up. So isn’t this absolute given norm created by society human behavior, actually a social construct? And aren’t these constructs forming a system based on biased information?

**Process: *Using a kit to hack a system.***

Starting this project by getting to know what a toolkit could offer in all kinds of systems. Or what sour spot in a system is brought to light with a toolkit. I read the text “Unboxing the Toolkit” from Shannon Mattern. While reading this I got irritated, not understanding why in some examples in the text where on this positive perspective and the other examples seemed to be so negative. Even after reading the text I still couldn’t understand. In class I had a conversation with Christina and Carlotta and that was the point where I understood what Shannon Mattern was writing about. A kit can be a mirror of some political, social or economical problem. It’s only providing a plaster for a wound that’s much bigger. For example, because of the lack of medical help in economical poor countries, these countries have to use first aid kits as a solution. (Mattern, S., 2021)

Our group saw the problem of housing in the Netherlands. Within this problem there are many systems that could be addressed, so we chose for the house scamming. Then the thought came to mind, a scammer is basically a hacker. If we would take the scamming as a system, set it as a norm, the system can be hacked again by another hacker and the idea of hacking a hacker was there. The base of ‘hacking a hacker’ sounds interesting to me. Possibilities are endless and there would be infinite reactions.

**Sourcelist.**

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