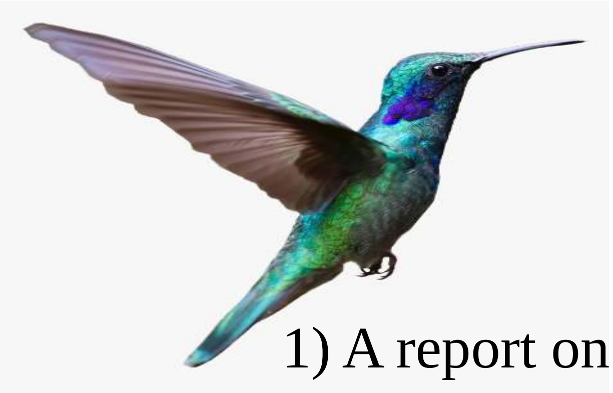


Thesis formats

1) A report on your research and practice.

2) An analytical essay exploring related artistic, theoretical, historical and critical issues and practices that inform your practice, without necessarily referring to your work directly.

3) The presentation of a text as a body of creative written work.

! As long as you meet the criteria for evaluation
you are free as a bird.

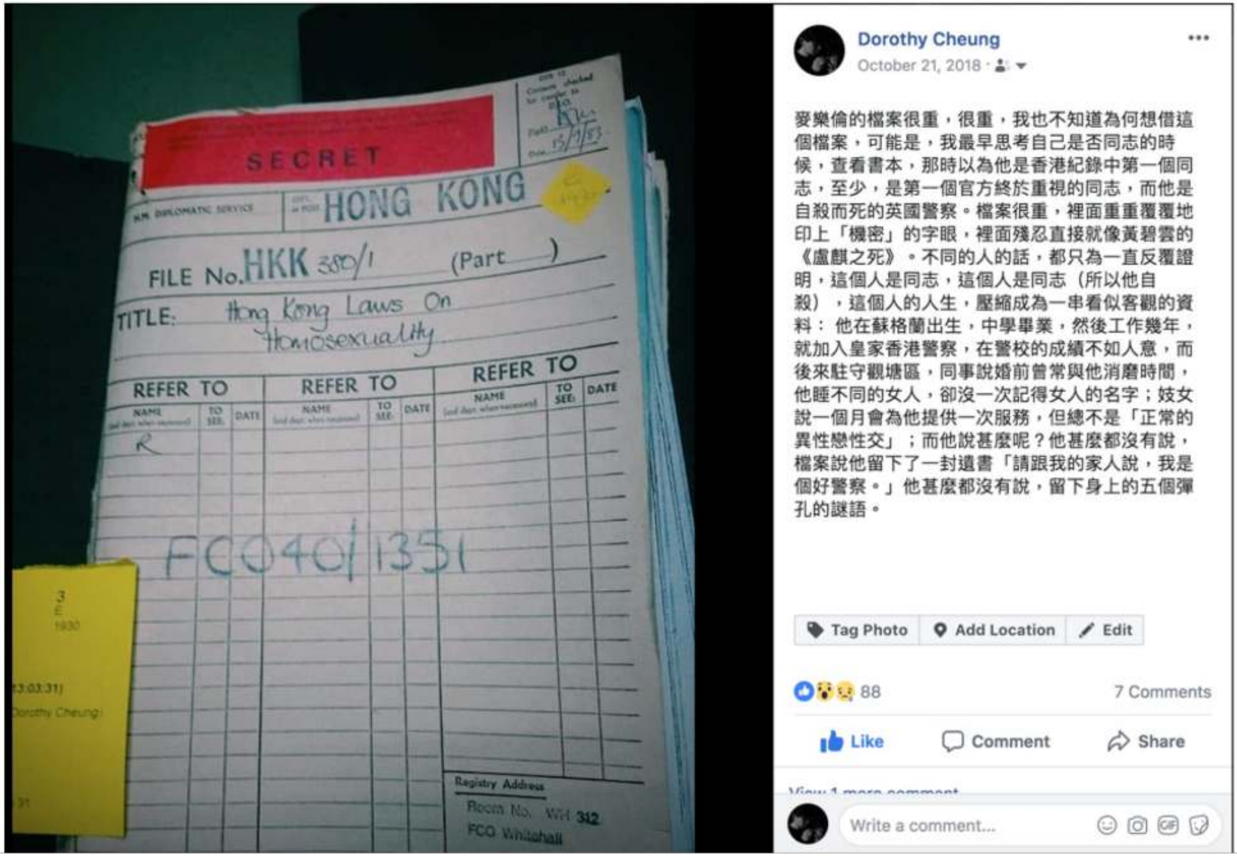
Walking towards the Sun

A Quest of Hong Kong's Colonial Archives

Dorothy Cheung

0.1.1.2 MacLennan

The scanner app cannot run on my phone, so I decide to read a file for my own interest. I search homosexuality and Hong Kong, and the search engine points me to a file with the title "Hong Kong Laws on Homosexuality". It consists of a pile of documents on the case of MacLennan in 1980. John MacLennan, a Scottish policeman served in the Royal Hong Kong Police, found dead in his apartment with 5 gunshots in his chest in 1980.


SECRET
H.M. DIPLOMATIC SERVICE
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Registry Address
Room No. WH 312
FCO Whitehall
Tag Photo
Add Location
Edit
88
7 Comments
Like
Comment
Share
Write a comment...

FILE No. HKK 380/1 (Part)

TITLE: Hong Kong Laws On Homosexuality

FCO40/1351

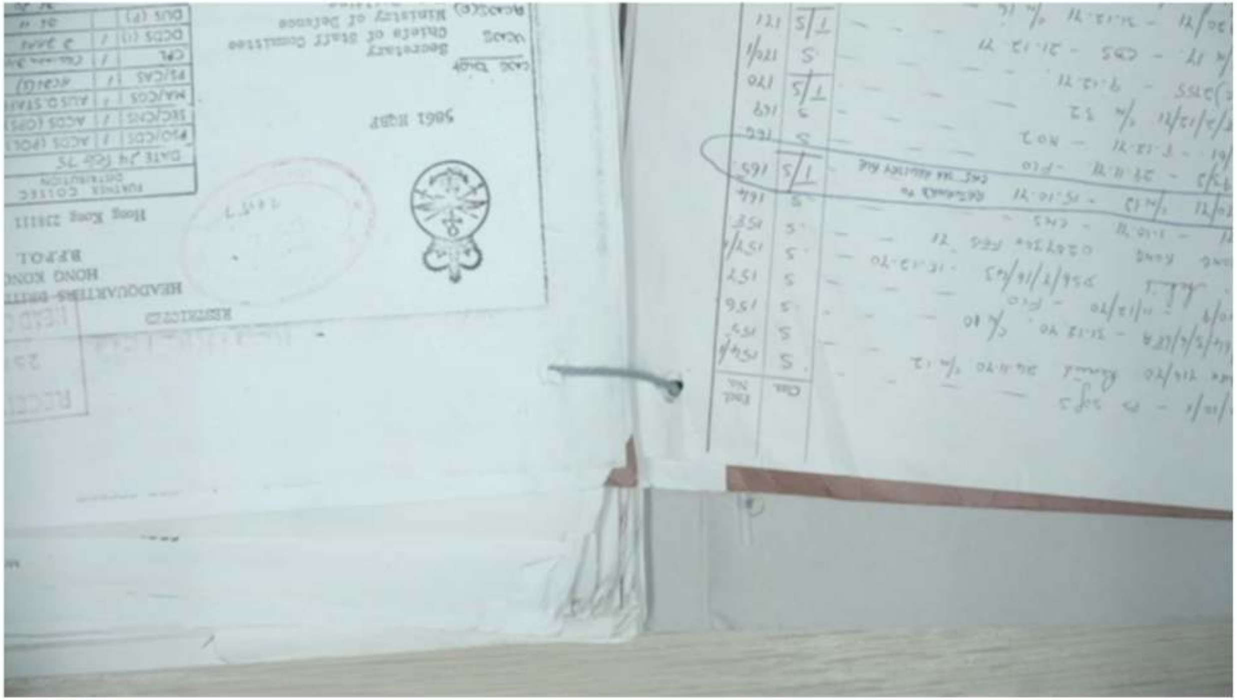
Dorothy Cheung

October 21, 2018

麥樂倫的檔案很重，很重，我也不知道為何想借這個檔案，可能是，我最早思考自己是否同志的時候，查看書本，那時以為他是香港紀錄中第一個同志，至少，是第一個官方終於重視的同志，而他是自殺而死的英國警察。檔案很重，裡面重重覆覆地印上「機密」的字眼，裡面殘忍直接就像黃碧雲的《盧麒之死》。不同的人的話，都只為一直反覆證明，這個人是同志，這個人是同志（所以他自殺），這個人的人生，壓縮成為一串看似客觀的資料： 他在蘇格蘭出生，中學畢業，然後工作幾年，就加入皇家香港警察，在警校的成績不如人意，而後來駐守觀塘區，同事說婚前曾常與他消磨時間，他睡不同的女人，卻沒一次記得女人的名字；妓女說一個月會為他提供一次服務，但總不是「正常的異性戀性交」；而他說甚麼呢？他甚麼都沒有說，檔案說他留下了一封遺書「請跟我的家人說，我是個好警察。」他甚麼都沒有說，留下身上的五個彈孔的謎語。

0.1.2.3 After thoughts

Aesthetically I have not decided anything before head, apart from I would not use talking head of people. In a coincidence, when I first interview J in her dormitory, we decide to talk when we cook and eat. I film the process of that and find cooking as a mean to loosen up both the subject and myself. From there I prefer to cook or have a meal with the subjects before we go into the interview.



Later, I also realized that cooking can also relate to the act of scanning archives, for both involves a very tactile experience, and can be a mundane process if we divide them up into bits

0.2.1.2 Risotto and Unthinkable History

L. is very critical on the politics and admires the works of the researchers she used to work within Hong Kong. She is very precise when cooking risotto for me, at the same time she dives into her own personal memory of activism. It is indeed amazing to hear her recite events and conversations with exact time and date.

When I ask her if there is a huge difference between working with archives, that are events in the past, and campaigning for election, what she used to do before, she questions,

Poetic Software

How artistic methods elicit critical reflection on software

Alexander Roidl

There is no Software
Kittler_Friedrich_1992_1997_There_Is_No_Software.pdf
1
of 9
179.58%
Thu...
1
2
3

THERE IS NO SOFTWARE

The present explosion of the signifying scene, which, as we know from Barry McGuire and A. F. N. Dahran, coincides with the so-called Western world, is instead an implosion. The bulk of written texts—including the paper I am actually reading to you—no longer exist in perceivable time and space, but in a computer memory's transistor cells. And since these cells, in the last three

1. I am reading, the computer is reading

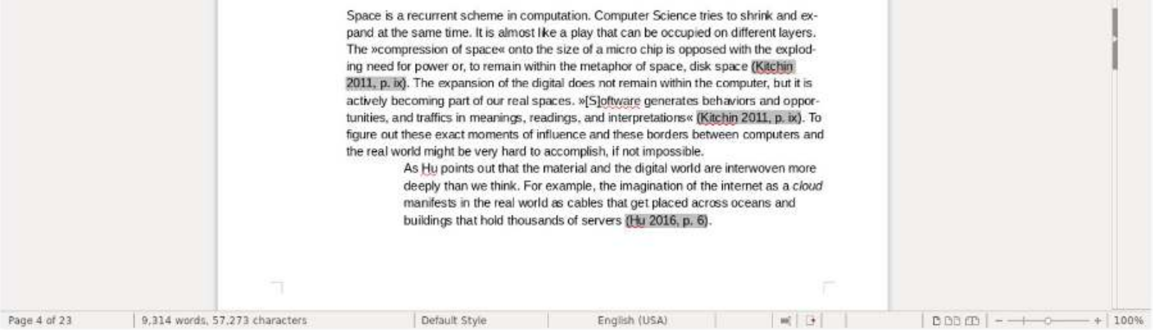
or how to observe and understand the layers of software

Illustration 2: Logo of WinZip (WinZip Computing, S.L. 2010)

I am reading “There is no software” by Friedrich Kittler. I downloaded the pdf file of the text onto my computer using the Firefox browser. The browser has saved the file in my downloads folder. I can find it through the file-system, which I can view in a representational view by opening the file explorer. By clicking the icon of the file explorer, the computer opens a new window for me. I see different icons of folders and many other ones for files. I double click my way through the folders until I end up in the Downloads folder, where the newly downloaded file is placed in a list view among others. The file is called “Kittler_Friedrich_1992_1997_There_Is_No_Software.pdf”. I hover over the small bar with the title. The operating system default setting is to open the file with the document viewer and so I do, by double-clicking the left mouse button. Within seconds a new window appears putting the file manager window into the background and foregrounding the title page of the pdf framed by small icons and scroll-bars. I click to enlarge to full-screen and start to scroll down till the first lines of text appear. I zoom out pressing the combination CTRL and “-” twice. Next, I start reading the first sentence. “The present explosion of the signifying scene, which, as we know from Barry McGuire and A F. N. Dahran, coincides with the so-called Western world, is instead an implosion.” Barry McGuire? I hover the name, press the mouse down and drag from “B” to “e”. The text tints white with a blue background. The release of the mouse button is followed by pressing CTRL C. I switch to the browser, which still shows the download page of the PDF. I paste the name into the search bar and press enter. The search engine shows a list of results – one video; this must be it. As the link reacts to my hovering, I click on it and with a short flickering I end up on YouTube. Without any action required the video starts and the speakers play: “The eastern world it is exploding”, to which Kittler must have referred.

→Compression: Too small to see, too large to forget

The implosion and explosion can well be seen on different levels of software. While the complexity and interplay of different technologies are exploding, the visibility and the potential for understanding are imploding. Increasingly better software brings great advances for in-



Space is a recurrent scheme in computation. Computer Science tries to shrink and expand at the same time. It is almost like a play that can be occupied on different layers. The »compression of space« onto the size of a micro chip is opposed with the exploding need for power or, to remain within the metaphor of space, disk space (Kitchin 2011, p. ix). The expansion of the digital does not remain within the computer, but it is actively becoming part of our real spaces. »[S]oftware generates behaviors and opportunities, and traffics in meanings, readings, and interpretations« (Kitchin 2011, p. ix). To figure out these exact moments of influence and these borders between computers and the real world might be very hard to accomplish, if not impossible.

As Hu points out that the material and the digital world are interwoven more deeply than we think. For example, the imagination of the internet as a *cloud* manifests in the real world as cables that get placed across oceans and buildings that hold thousands of servers (Hu 2016, p. 6).

Illustration 5: The writing of this essay with LibreOffice

As I go further in Kittler's text, focusing on the text as my mail software wants to interrupt me with some notifications about incoming mails. I click them away. Kittler is writing about how computers are writing and reading themselves. I want to copy this part in my notes. I drag the mouse from »in contrast« to »read and write by themselves« and as the text tints, the layer of text reads: »in cont- nast to all histor- ical writigtools, are able to read and write by thenvselves« (sic! by ocr?) (1992, p. 147). My machine has read the text before me – not only once. The text has probably been written and read many times before I opened it. The computer had read the document for words using Optical Character Recognition and even made its own interpretation. That explains why the selected text is wrong because the program misinterpreted some of the characters. Together with this incorrect version of the text, it got written again to the memory. Then another time the text was read – into the working memory when I opened it with the document viewer.

→ERROR: Headline not found

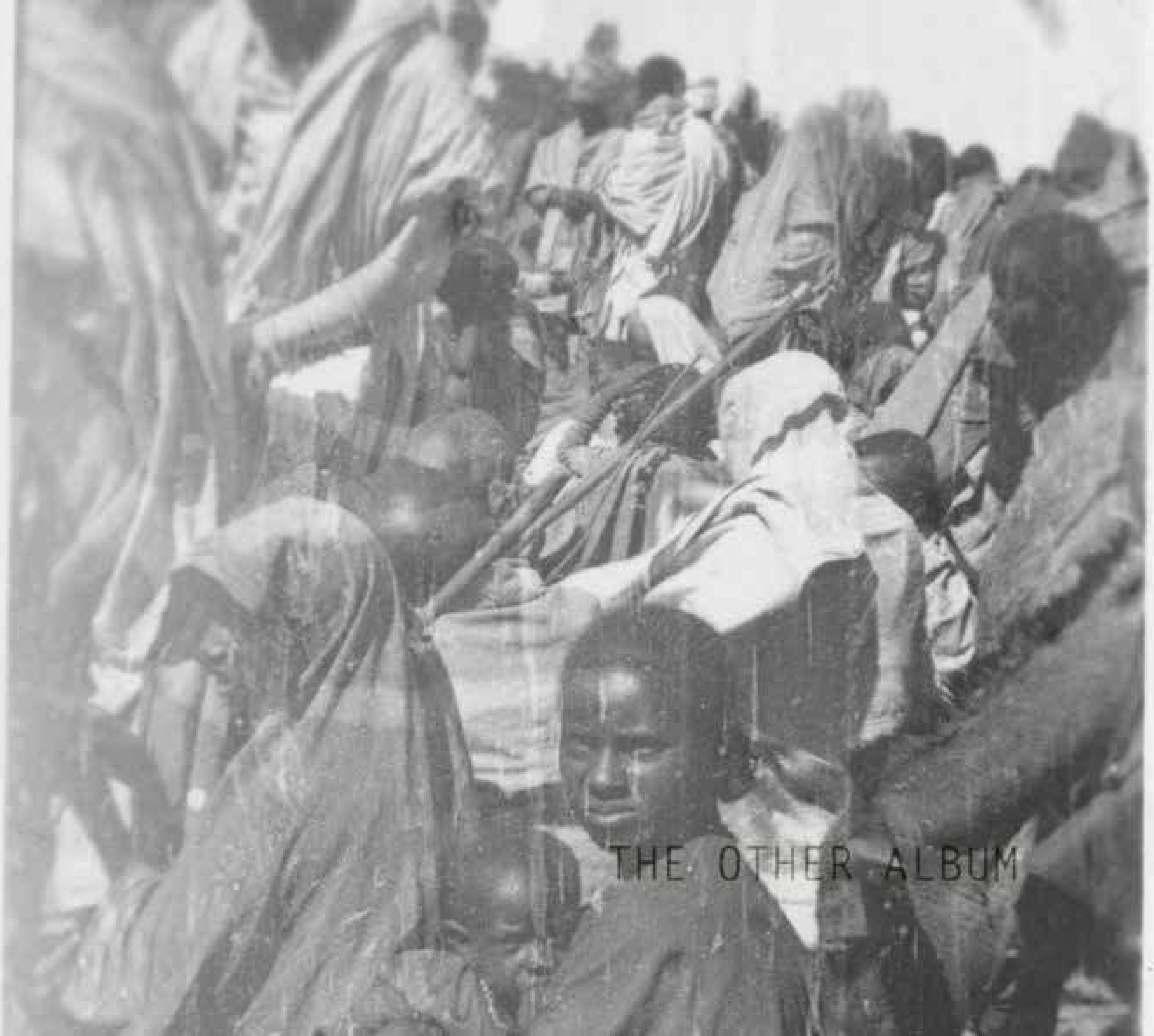
We can get a spark of what execution of code means and how software really acts and performs when it fails or when it is taken out of its context (Winograd and Flores 1995). In the following, I want to argue that for a serious engagement with software it is also necessary to look at the non-functional and the stuff that is in-between the pixels and conducting paths. We expect software to run seamlessly, but what if software fails or malfunctions? What, if software has no function?

"Most people notice infrastructures only when they are put in the wrong place or break down.

The Other Album

Regained Memories from the Italo-Ethiopian War, 1935-36

Rossella Nisio

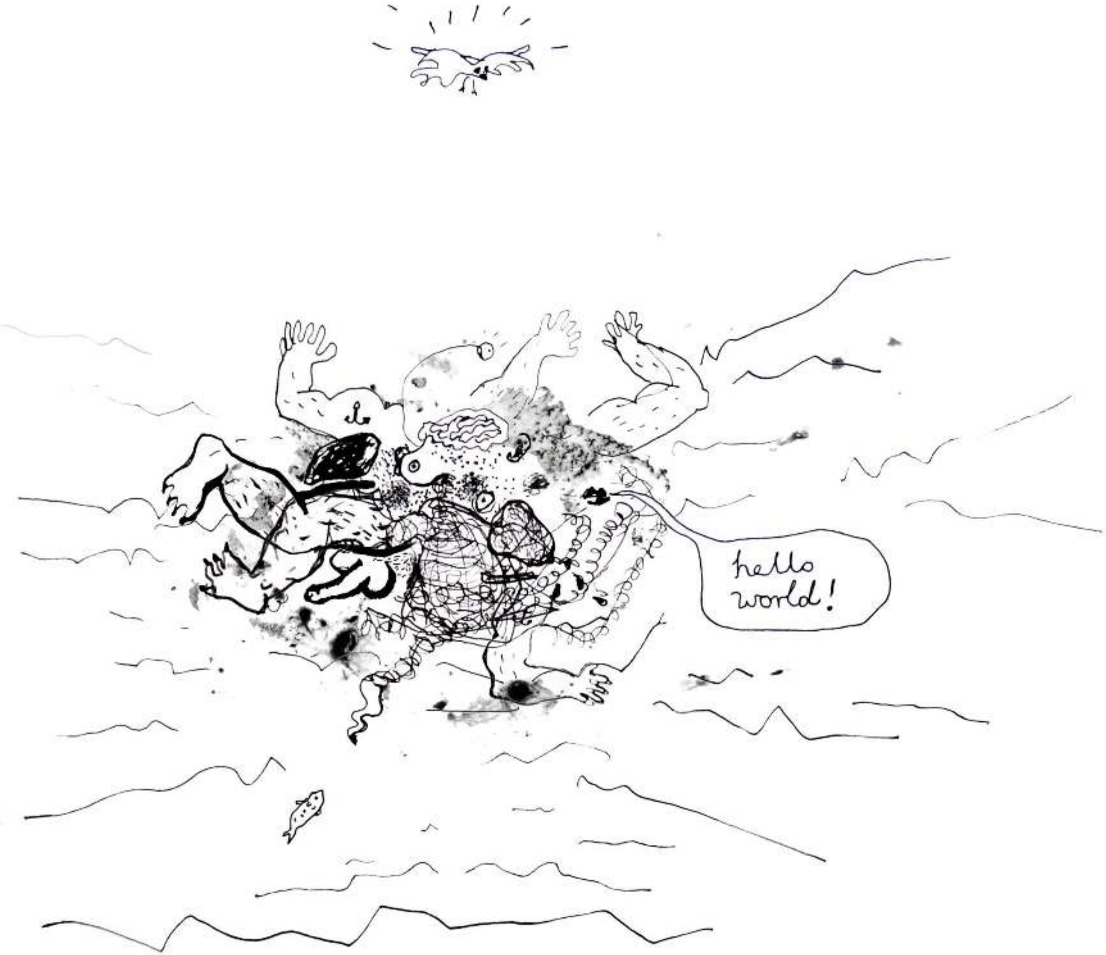


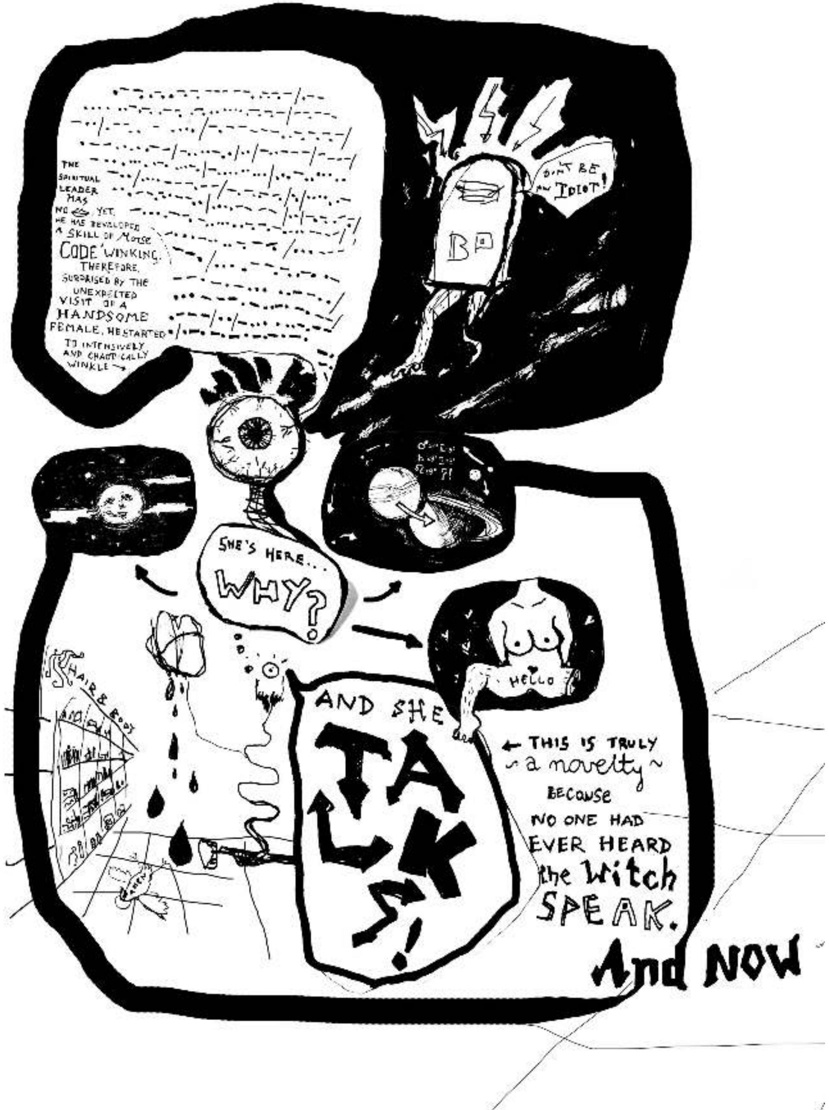
THE OTHER ALBUM

One Possible Story

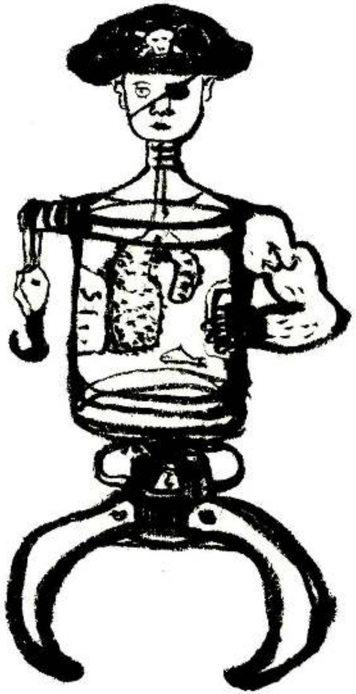
Julia Kul

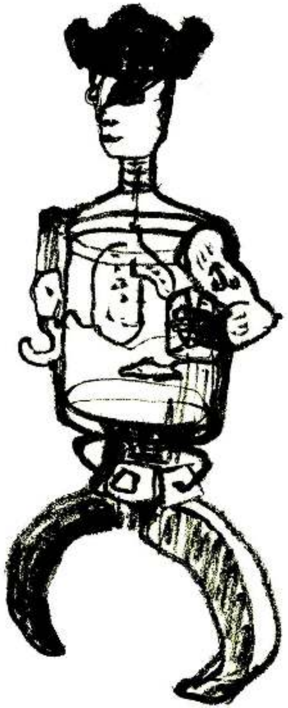
ONE POSSIBLE STORY


hello world!


THE SPIRITUAL LEADER HAS NO 👄 YET. HE HAS DEVELOPED A SKILL OF Morse CODE WINKING. THEREFORE, SURPRISED BY THE UNEXPECTED VISIT OF A HANDSOME FEMALE, HE STARTED TO INTENSIVELY AND CHAOTICALLY WINKLE →
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
BP
SHE'S HERE... WHY?
HAIR & BODY
HELLO
AND SHE TALKS!
← THIS IS TRULY ~ a novelty ~ BECOUSE NO ONE HAD EVER HEARD the Witch SPEAK.
And NOW

A.





the pirate

Booty that left:

+ 1 head
+ 1 eye + ears
+ 1 inefficient eye
+ 1 lung + $\frac{1}{2}$
+ 1 gold fish
+ 1 hand with ⚓ tattoo