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January 2, 2021
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Hello M.,

I see that we have a lot in common regarding ideas and ideals of the internet. We've been in a flood of "aesthetics" of a while now and images have become means surveillance, capitalism, politics and so on. It is almost impossible to escape this world. And yet you mention how mainstream culture digs up elements of subcultures, transforming them into the mainstream. Well I have recently observed how this minimal, "anti-aesthetic" has circulated through subcultures, as a cause of this inundation I mention earlier [see for example poster design], however it is now coming to the surface of popular culture, to the point where I see it in mass market clothing shops. But it is a pattern, it has happened and will happen again. Trend forecasting at its finest.

The internet used to be a democratic community, as you mentioned, before social media and the over-population of websites. It used to be a place of self-expression, customization, with infinite creative possibilities. Yet it has been taken over by "centralised networks" [as defined in my previous letter] and now it is used as a marketing, consumerist tool.

So maybe the poetic net can be found in these imaginary networks. Now that we have identified some tropes of the "problem" and theoretical frameworks, we can start rebelling. I am thinking that before jumping into fiction, we should build a simple list of what current networks are and how would a poetic/ counterculture net would look like. I believe that this could be a good start for building and imagining a fictional world.

Here is my list [also kind of drawing on your word maps haha] of what I think of netti-internetti as it is now:

- Surveillance
- Manipulation
- Corporate
- Control
- Targeted
- Monetised
- Advertising
- Data storage
- No ecological awareness
- The positive aspect is the high number of knowledge resources
- Policing

Also when I think of poetics, I think of:
- Pirating
- Peer-to-peer
- Geocities
- Youtube has become a place of "protest", although it is also highly regulated

- Roots
- Tendrils
- Sprouts
- Collectiveness
- Your example of the community led websites
- Aesthetics that do not foster advertising campaigns
- Stability

Maybe it is a good time to ask how much of the internet is advertising?

Also found some good inspiration:

https://transmediale.de/content/what-was-the-network
https://transmediale.de/content/issue4

I would definitely dig the transmediale website.

I suggest we start fictionalising and as a method I would keep sending email back and forth. Maybe one of us could write a first small paragraph of the short story and from there we can consolidate and continue, based on these things we have been talking about.

What do you think?