

Project Title: *art.empath.io*

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Media: Web, Arduino, thermal printer

Description

Art.empath.io is an interactive system which installs in front of an artwork in exhibition in a modern/contemporary art museum and encourages more visitor engagement with the art on display. At the start of the interaction, the viewer sees on a digital display a printout sliding out of a virtual printer, prompting the viewer to type in his commentary about the artwork he is viewing. When the viewer submits his response, the printout slides back into the virtual printer. After pausing for a few seconds, a thermal receipt printer nearby produces on paper a piece of commentary about the same artwork from a previous viewer or the artwork's creator. The user is invited to take away the physical printout from the printer.

Running length

This work is meant to be experienced by a single user at one given time. There is no constraint to how long the user wants to interact with it. A typical interaction with the work lasts 5-10 minutes.

Installation

The system is encased in a self-contained, portable unit that includes computer and screen display, power supply, printer, paper supply and input devices. Although this unit is standalone and does not require additional setup equipment, for best user experience, please place the unit on a pedestal/table nearby the art piece.

Below is a detailed list of the media and materials used in the installation of this work:

- Macbook 15" (macOS version 10.12)
 - Software requirements: Arduino, Chrome (with Chrome Extension: Full Screen For Chrome installed), Python, Flask, MongoDB, Node.js. Please download the code for running various electronic components at <https://github.com/chunw/artmyview.io> and follow the instructions to setup the machine.
 - For each artwork that this work is used to seek public engagement for, the prompt displayed on the Web App needs to be crafted and updated according to the specific artwork beforehand, and a new database needs to be created manually. Currently there is no automated process for doing this.
 - There is no specific requirement for display resolution or dimension
- Adafruit Mini Thermal Receipt Printer
 - Outline Dimension: 111 x 65 x 57 mm
 - Requires 5-9VDC, 1.5Amp power supply during print
- 2.25" wide thermal paper supply
- Charging Power Pack for powering the printer
 - Dimension: 6 x 4 x 1.3in
 - AC output 110V/60Hz 220V/50Hz
- Multi-port USB 2.0 Data Hub
- Wireless Mouse with nano receiver

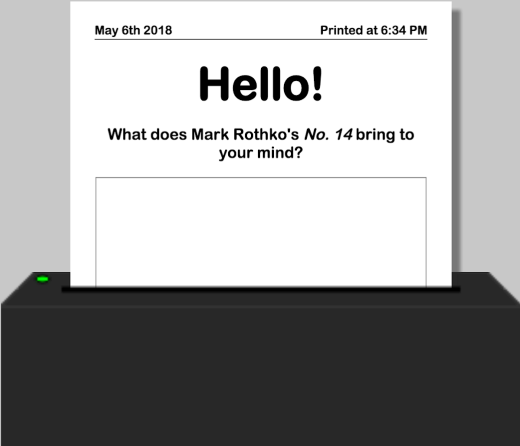
- USB Wired Small Compact Mini Computer Keyboard
 - Dimension: 0.2 x 4.7 x 11.2 in
- Package case
 - Dimension: 22 x 12 x 4 in

Images

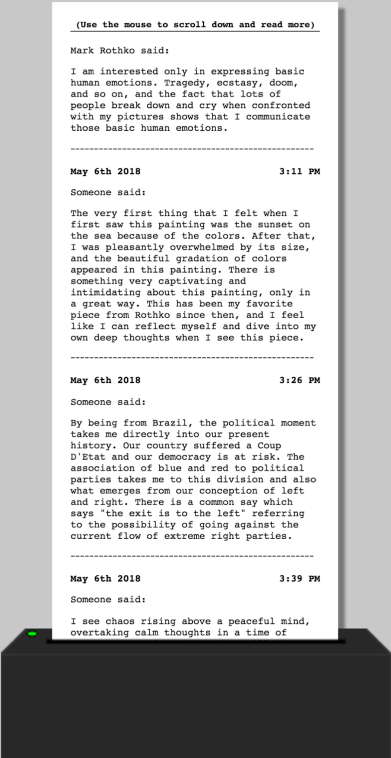
Below are the hardware and software (web) components of the project:



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This project has been showcased at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Anderson Collection at Stanford University in the United States. Below are the installation views:

