Fall 2020

eli14k.computer

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Bard

eli14k.computer v1.0

senior project submitted to
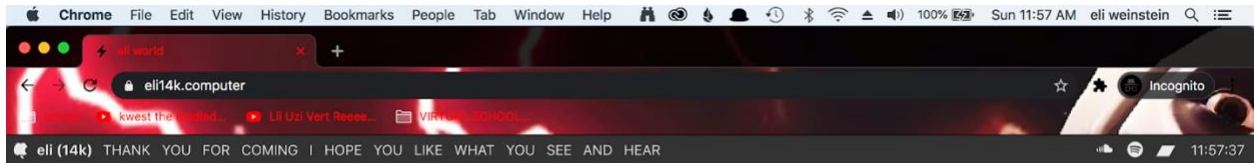the division of the arts
of bard college

by
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annandale-on-hudson , new york
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eli14k.computer is a website i built to organize , present , and archive my art , on my terms . i built this site as a response to the dissatisfaction i felt when trying to share my art through social media and other platforms . it destroys me to think that creative energy can be   reduced to likes and followers and that my value as an artist is determined by algorithms and systems that are out of my control . i hate thinking that the way i interact with content could be a way one interacts with my work . to deal with this discontent i decided to remove myself and my art from the social media landscape and tried to create a space on the internet that felt fully personal (for as much as one can individualize their " profile " , a user is always confined by the limitations of their platform) . i wanted a space where i could post , share , do , and say whatever i want , and that this space existed solely to serve me and my creative endeavors . upon considering this , i realized that in order to fully realize this idea , the space needed to be as much of an art piece as the works it hosted . the loose curves of my art create tension between the tight ridges of existing media platforms , to remedy this i created a space that would free the works rather than confine them . i tried to mimic a space where i knew my art felt comfortable , the computer desktop . while the site's current layout isn't as true to the mess of my own , i thought that using a form that is familiar to most people would make for intuitive user interaction . the site's homepage is full of art " files " that can be clicked on ; some of which are single art images or videos , others host entire " galleries " . the four main " galleries " are SMALL TOWN , ANOTHER PLANET , JOURNAL ENTRIES , and the eli14k archive . the first three contain paintings and drawings done during the summer of 2020 , and the latter hosts links to all the music (worth sharing) i created late 2019 - present . none of my physical art existed on the web previously and it's such a joy to be able to present it in a way that feels unbound by the restrictions of other platforms . creating an archive for all my musical endeavors has also been
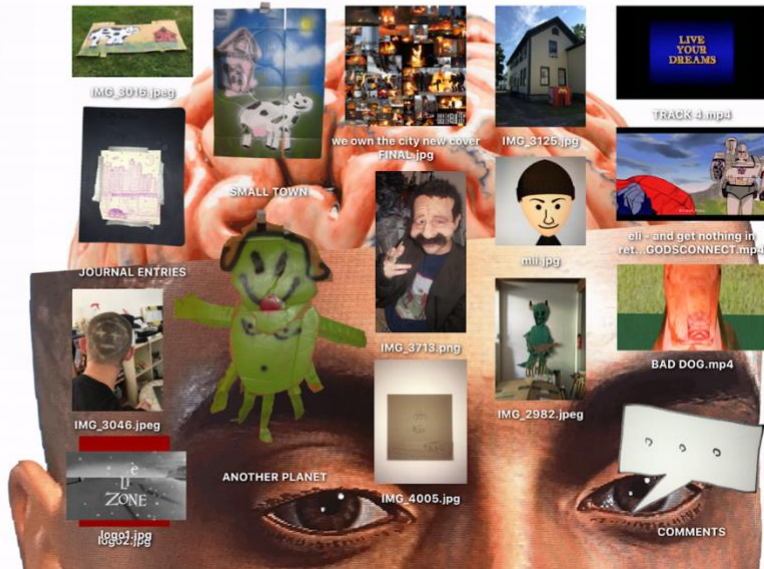
super satisfying . as someone who produces music work not only for myself , many of my projects and works have been scattered throughout the web over a handful of accounts , profiles , and sites . creating a place where someone can access the totality of this work easily feels really important , and seeing all the works next to one another is extremely self-satisfying . this archive includes projects i created for the first semester of my senior project , " sunday sketches 4 + 5 " and " loop based hip hop influenced sample oriented semi ambient music for meditation and self reflection " . part of creating this archive included uploading many hours of previously unreleased music which not only made the collection feel more fleshed out , but also was a good exercise in getting music off of my laptop and into the world , something i don't do enough .
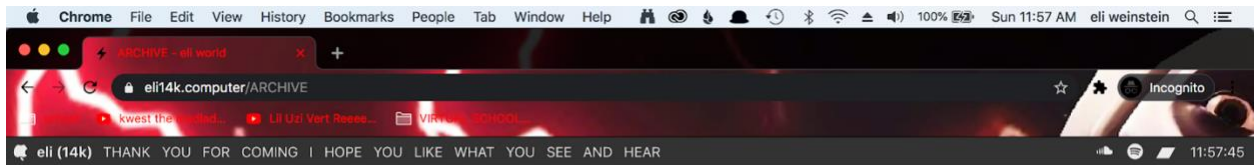
as of today (12/5/2020) , eli14k.computer v1.0 is up and running ! i say version 1.0 for i plan to occasionally update the site and upload new works as they are finished . in future versions i would like to find ways to host media directly within the site rather than having links take you to external hosts (ie. music links don't take you to soundcloud , or video links don't take you to youtube) . i think this will greatly strengthen the idea that the art in this space is fully separate from other internet spaces , yet with limited HTML knowledge i haven't yet figured out how to do this . i also think there is more i can do to accentuate the "desktopiness" of the homepage . i think the menubar at the top and having the image captions as file names (extensions included) helps but i'm not sure it screams desktop yet . the items on the homepage are draggable much like files on a desktop , yet i haven't figured out how to make this abundantly clear and most people i showed early versions to didn't realize it was an option . i do believe in my audiences and that people are smart enough to figure out the way the site works , but i worry that what is intuitive for me isn't for someone else and that by giving no instructions i risk the

less tech-savvy users not having the full experience . these gripes aside , i think version 1.0 is a

good base and will only get better as more art is added to it . i think the more art i make and

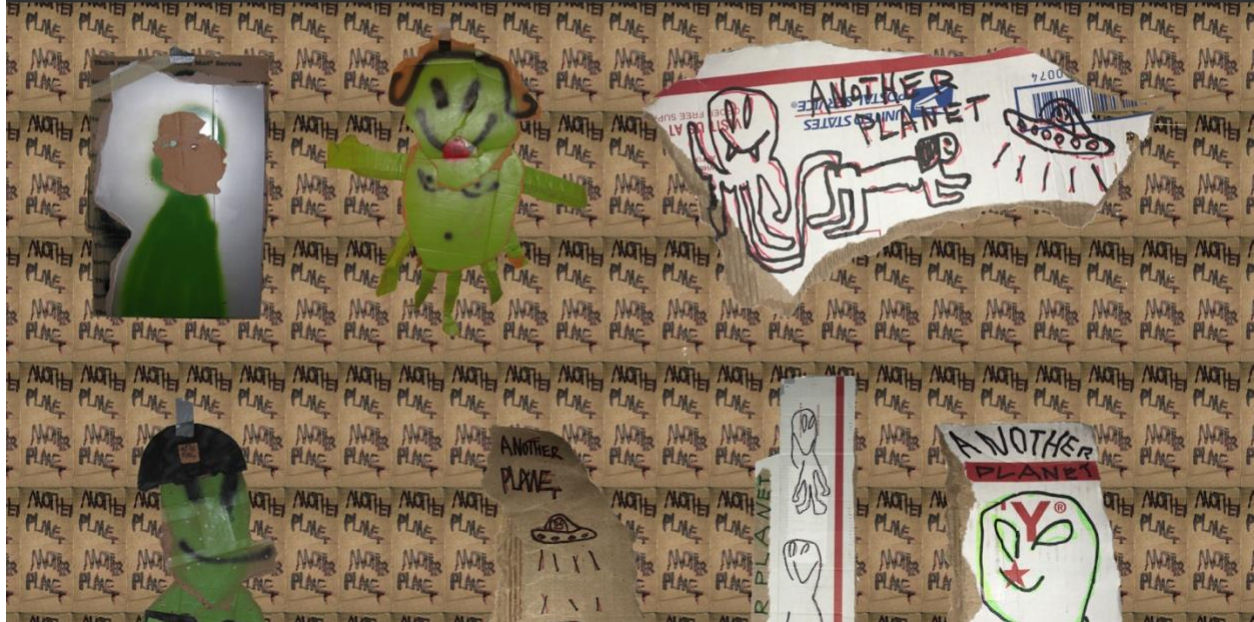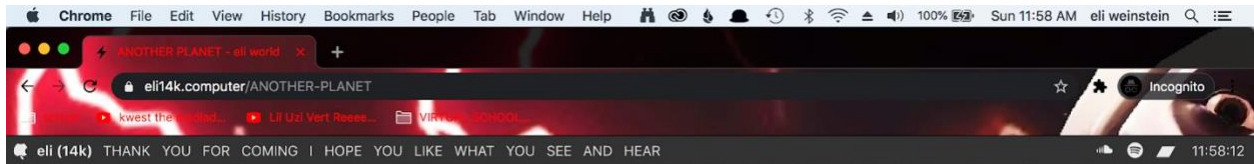upload , the messier the layout will become and the truer it will feel to my actual computer .

thank you to my family , my friends , and my professors .