Michael Murtaugh

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profile

Michael Murtaugh (b. 1972, Champaign, Illinois, USA) is a freelance programmer specialised in community databases, digital archives, and tools for new forms of reading and writing online.

education

1996
　　M.Sc. Media Technology
　　Massachusetts Institute of Technology / MIT Media Lab
　　Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
1994
　　B.Sc. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
　　Massachusetts Institute of Technology

employment & associations

2003–present
　　Instructor in the *Experimental Publishing Master* [XPUB](#)
　　[Piet Zwart Institute](#)
　　Willen de Kooning Academy
　　Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2014–present
　　Founder and member of [Institute for Computational Vandalism](#).
2014–present
　　Employed at [Constant VZW](#) developing and researching Network infrastructure and applications both for the organisation and during workshops and special event.
2010–present
　　Member of [Active Archives](#), a research project initiated by Constant investigating and developing digital archiving platforms for cultural institutions.
2009–present
　　Member of [Constant VZW](#), Association for Art & Media Brussels. Participant in the [Open Source Video](#) interest group.
2010–2011
　　[BAM](#), Instituut voor beeldende, audiovisuele en mediakunst, Gent, Belgium. Support for the Active Archives project as part of the [Archipel](#) project investigating sustainable archiving for Flemish cultural heritage.
2001–present
　　[Automatist.org](#), Brussels.
　　Founder. See *Exhibited and online work*
1999–2001

Jam New Media (for Public Dialogue), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Co-founder, partnership with Jeanine de Bruin; Designed and implemented projects with focus on uses of new media for science communication. See projects section.

1997–1999
newMetropolis Science & Technology Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Exhibition & Interactive design. Worked under design director James Bradburne.

1997
Medialab, Schellingkhout, The Netherlands
Interaction design / Programming Telecommunications Game "Get Connected"

1994–1996
MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Research Assistant in the Interactive Cinema group under Glorianna Davenport.

1992
Fiducia, Karlsruhe, Germany
CASE (Computer aided software engineering) tool programming

1990
International Business Machines, White Plains, New York, USA
Summer Internship

selected publications

2020
Troubled Archives, in Roots & Routes, n.33 ARCHIVIO E' POTERE
https://www.roots-routes.org/troubled-archives-the-story-of-how-an-individual-artistic-research-into-archives-becomes-a-collective-and-at-times-community-driven-project/

Eventual Consistency, in DiVersions v2, Constant. ISBN 9789081145992
https://diversions.constantvzw.org/publication/diversions_v2.pdf
https://diversions.constantvzw.org/wiki/index.php?title=Eventual_Consistency

2019
Situological Applications: Digitizing the Situationist Times, in These are Situationist Times! Torpedo Press, Oslo 2019. https://torpedobok.no/These-Are-Situationist-Times-1

2017
Giving the finger (back) to the digital: considering 'visual vocabularies' in relation to the Photographic archive of Asger Jorn's SICV, In *Lost and Living (in) Archives*, Editor Annet Dekker
https://monoskop.org/images/1/11/Dekker_Annet_ed_Lost_and_Living_in_Archives_2017.pdf

2016
A bag but is language nothing of words in Mondotheque: A Radiated Book/un livre irradiant/een irradiërend boek

2015
Vandalist Iconophilia with Ellef Prestsæter, Matthew Fuller, and Nicolas Malevé; Concreta 05, June 2015 Re

2015
Eleven Orderings in Report from the Gutenberg Galaxy at Blaker #1

2014
Do (not) Repeat Yourself in Fun and Software: Exploring Pleasure, Paradox and Pain in Computing; edited by Olga Goriunova, 2014, Bloomsbury

From Print to Ebooks: a Hybrid Publishing Toolkit for the Arts. Institute for Network Cultures, Amsterdam. (Contributions / Editing / project participation) Specific blog posts can be found https://networkcultures.org/digitalpublishing/author/michaelmurtaugh/

2008
Interaction in Software Studies \ a lexicon, edited by Matthew Fuller, MIT Press, 2008.

1997

[Automatist storyteller systems and the shifting sands of story](#)
with Glorianna Davenport
IBM Systems Journal, Volume 36, Number 3, 1997

1996

[The Automatist Storytelling System](#)
Putting the Editor's Knowledge in Software
Masters Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1996

1995

[ConText: Towards the evolving documentary](#)
with Glorianna Davenport
Proceedings of the third ACM international conference on Multimedia
San Francisco, California, 1995

recorded presentations

2018

Performing the Data Drive, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, Dec 2018 aaaan.net
hetnieuweinstituut (presentation video)
https://vimeo.com/316064308#t=4800s

Giving the Finger (Back) to the Digital: The Art and Politics of Archival Practice, Feb 2018,
MACBA, Barcelona (video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFLRAX_sgp8

Ecosystems of writing
Inteview made as part of *Creating Commons* Worksession, Basel
http://creatingcommons.zhdk.ch/?p=617
https://vimeo.com/309009024

The Art and Politics of Archival Practice. A càrrec de SICV
MACBA, Barcelona
https://youtu.be/a5PO7QhTzHU

2017

Situated Publishing: Writing with and for Machines, with An Mertens & Sarah Garcin,
Transmediale, Berlin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTPyO0BrO-8

2016

Scandinavian Institute for Computational Vandalism
Libre Graphics Meeting 2015, London
https://youtu.be/wANo6M_swoY

exhibited and online work

2019

The Recognition Machine, with Antje Van Wichelen
http://recognitionmachine.vandal.ist/

These are Situationist Times: An Online Interface on display as part of the exhibition *Pinball Wizard*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. http://vandal.ist/thesituationisttimes/

2018-2019

Situationist Times Digital Interface, produced for the exhibition *The Situationist Times: Same Player Shoots Again!* Produced with Torpedo Books, Oslo

Malmö Konsthall, Sweden
https://www.konsthall.malmo.se/en/utstallning/jacqueline-de-jong-the-situationist-times/

http://www.torpedobok.no/ Torpedo Publishers, Oslo

2013 — 2015
Guttorm Guttormsgaard: 11 Orderings, an online interface to the objects of Norwegian graphic designer and artist Guttorm Guttormsgaard.

2012 — 2014
Erkki Kurenniemi "In 2048" (ongoing), an online interface to digital archive of Erkki Kurenniemi. The digital archive was exhibited as part of Documenta 13 in Kassel (2012), at Kunsthal Aarhus, Denmark (2013) at Kiasma, Helsinki (2014).

2012
Open House Brussels, an editors interface (based on Active Archives) and front end video player to allow on-the-fly editing of a collection of interview material based on tags.

2011 — 2013
Schaarbeeksetaal, an online audio dictionary related to language particular to a neighborhood in Brussels. Django-based CMS and front-end with time based text.

2008 — present
Active Archives, project to explore shared archiving platforms for cultural institutions. Project initiated by Constant.

2009—2010
TransLearning an online "learning histories" project related to sustainable agriculture. Collaboration with Jeanine de Bruin, the Athena Institute at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and TransForum.

2010-2011
Archipel on-site and online interface to a musical collection for La Médiathèque de la Communauté française de Belgique asbl, Brussels. Together with ÜBERKNACKIG.

2010
Cinema du Reel "Videotheque" interface for on-site visitors to view festival films on demand.

2005–2010
Videodagboek: Borstkanker / Videodagboek: Prostaatkanker
(Videodiary: Breast Cancer / Videodiary: Prostate Cancer)
with Jeanine de Bruin for the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF), Amsterdam, NL
Design and production of streaming video-based websites to support the decision making process of those diagnosed with cancer. Video clips give a firsthand account of doctor's visits, treatment, and at-home interviews. Design included specialised CMS to manage subtitles and auxiliary textual information tracks synchronized with the streaming video.
http://dagboek.kwfkankerbestrijding.nl/

2005
Vathorstgroeit.nl
A "video wiki" for a developing suburb of the Dutch city of Amersfoort. The site allows residents to upload video clips and supports grouping and annotating the clips to create a community-based "evolving documentary". NB: the editing capabilities are only available when registered and logged in.

2005
Open History Timeline: Web Design Timeline
with Femke Snelting
Design and programming of a custom content management system to support communal history writing. Through an open structure of questions and answers placed on a timeline, participants give their definition of the first ten years of web design.
http://www.designtimeline.org

2005
Robott.org
with Joost Bottema
Design and programming custom content management system / navigation system for an online magazine style presentation of student projects in visual communication.
http://www.robott.org

2004
Map of Creativity
with Remon Tijssen, James Bradburne for the Next Generation Foundation, UK

Design and programming of an interactive visualisation and navigation tool for an extensible database of innovative education projects throughout the world.

2003

European Seminar on Multilevel Governance: Video Presentation
with Jeanine de Bruinfor the Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs (BZK), The Hague, NL
Design and programming of an interactive video summary of report about citizen participation for the EU.

2002

Unravelling Histories
Collaboration with De Geuzen, NL
Design and programming online database and public browser for an extensible collection of over 200 cross-indexed photographs and texts.
http://www.unravelling-histories.org

2002

Blood: Perspectives on Art, Power, Politics and Pathology
with Joost Bottema for the Frankfurt Museum of Applied Art (mak.frankfurt), Germany
Design and programming of an online database and browsing system for an exhibition collection of over 300 items and associated texts. Developed "word-linking" an automatic word-based cross-reference system.
http://automatist.org/blood

2001

Txtbk.com
Collaboration with Joost Bottema
Design and programming of an experimental online hypertext reading system.
http://robott.org/book2

2001

Jol-Fix
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) for Jol-Fix B.V., NL
Design and production of a website with an online digital catalog using short video fragments to situate product use.

2001

Echte Welvaart
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) and Joost Bottema for Stichting Echte Welvaart, Utrecht, NL
Design and programming of a website and content-management system, including the "atlas", a tool for browsing and visualizing patterns among over 400 project descriptions dynamically organized by theme, location, or target audience.
http://www.echtewelvaart.nl/atlas_frames.cgi?_pageid=63

2001

Comment Browser
Design and programming of an experimental interface to support "non-linear" reading of discussion threads.
http://automatist.org/commentbrowser/

2001

Bio50
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) for the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL
Design and production of a video-based CD-ROM commemorating 50 years of the biology department at the VU.

2000

Xenotransplantie: kan dat?
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) for Stichting Consument en Biotechnologie (Foundation for Consumers and Biotechnology), NL
Design and production of an interactive video-based CD-ROM for use in small scale "community meetings" to stimulate discussion around the use of animals for human organ transplantation.

1999

E21.nl (Energy in the 21st century)
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) for the Van Staveren Stichting, Arnhem, NL

Design and programming of content management system for an education website to stimulate students to study energy sciences.

1999

Klonen Kloneren
with Jeanine de Bruin (Jam New Media) for the Rathenau Instituut, The Hague, NL
Design and production of a video-based summary and interactive exhibition for a public campaign about cloning technology.

1995

News in the Future, MIT Media Lab
Design and programming of an experimental interface demonstrating the idea of an "elastic canvas", a hierarchical presentation of a project abstracts in a single seamless display.
http://automatist.org/nif/

1995

ConTour: Boston Renewed Vistas, MIT Media Lab
Design and programming of an experimental interface for an "evolving documentary".
http://automatist.org/contour/

teaching and speaking

2015

Workshop in Blaker, Norway in conjunction with *Eleven Orderings*, See *publications*.

2015

Close Reading Session Kenneth Goldsmith's *Uncreative Writing*; Participation and network infrastructure.

2015

Cqrrelations; Participation and network infrastructure.

2014

Relearn, Summer School Second Session, Brussels

2010

Presentation, participant in panel "(Pro) Active Archives", Economies of the Commons 2

2010

Presentation: "Do (not) Repeat Yourself", Software and Fun Symposium, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

2004

Seminar "Making Data Visible"
Invited Speaker; London Knowledge Lab, University of London, UK

2000–2003

Merz Akademie, Hochschule für Gestaltung, Stuttgart
Developed and led 3 separate 5-day workshops on topics related to design of interactive media. (July 2000, June 2002, and May 2003)

2003

International Film Festival Rotterdam / Submarine, Bruno Felix
Invited Speaker / mentor Masterclass for Interactive Documentary Makers

2001

Mediamatic Salon @ Baby, Amsterdam
Invited speaker

2001

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam
Participation as mentor in video for science communication class

2000

Mediamatic, Amsterdam, Klaas Kuitenbrouwer
Participation in 2 workshops as speaker / mentor for "Gedrag Ontwerpen" program

http://www.mediamatic.nl/workshops/archief/2000_01/verhalenspelen_docu.html

http://www.mediamatic.nl/workshops/archief/2000_01/topologie2_sprekers.html

1999–2000

Jam New Media
Co-development and deployment of workshops for online video production

2000

International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA)
Invited speaker and panel participant "Docs Online" program

2000

Seminar "Information in bits and genes"
Invited Speaker; Technology & Agrarian Development Group, Wageningen UR

1999

Preferred Placement: The Hit Economy, Hyperlink Diplomacy and Web
Invited Speaker; organized by Richard Rogers
http://www.govcom.org/symposium.html

1997

CILECT: Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et de Télévision
Invited Speaker; (International Association of Cinema and Television Schools)
Congress 1997: Training for the Next Century, Ebeltoft Denmark

1995

International Documentary Film Festival Rotterdam
Invited Speaker; "Exploding Cinema" Program, February 1995

1995

Banff Center for the Arts, Alberta, Canada
Participation as presenter with Glorianna Davenport in Interactive Storytelling workshop.

1995

ACM Multimedia Conference, San Francisco, USA
Presented paper with Glorianna Davenport (see publications)

citations

2006

Else/Where, Janet Abrams and Peter Hall Editors, University of Minnesota Design Institute
pp. 290-299, Article "Contours & Colonies" by Andrea Codrington, review of project
"Unravelling Histories"

2004

Internet Art, by Rachel Greene, Thames & Hudson
p. 139, references to project "Unravelling Histories"

2003

Information Design Source Book, Graphic-Sha Publishing, Japan
pp 228-231 description and images of "Blood" project as an example of "Unfolding
Navigations"

2000

Items Magazine # 6, Dec 2000, Published by BIS B.V., Amsterdam
p. 63 review of Docs online presentation / "Elastic Boston" project in "www" column by
Menno Grootveld

awards

1994–1996

Eastman Kodak Media Lab Fellowship 1994 - 1996
Awarded by Eastman Kodak and the MIT Media Laboratory

skills

Extensive experience with video production for the web from shooting and editing to compression.
Experience with use of synchronous text (for subtitles, auxiliary information) and multi-lingual
installations.

Programming Languages: Python, Javascript, MySQL, PERL, XML, HTML, CSS, Java, C/C++.

Experience in building custom interfaces for visualizing & uncovering connections within digital collections & archives, including machine learning & vision. Custom content management systems with tight integration between back-end database/CGI scripts to front-end user interaction.

Fluent in English and Dutch. Working knowledge of French.