



Sonia de Jager

Manual Override

This experimental thesis explores questions concerning technology, culture and language by analyzing the dis/continuities between them under the tentative structural umbrella of "media." Basing the premises on the work of Marshall McLuhan, Friedrich Kittler, Vilém Flusser, Sybille Krämer, Joanna Zylińska, and others, the main issues investigated are: When does culture become technology, technology a form of culture, or either of them a specific form of communication? Can language be considered a 'cultural technology'? How can these three concepts, when conceived together as media, elucidate their structures under a different light? The answers to these questions are partly explored by the format the writing takes, and partly by analyses into phenomenology, film theory and optics. The concept of immediation, i.e. the inescapability of our mediated nature - examined not as an approach but as facticity- is introduced as a possible theoretical tool to approach the plurality of purported media presented.



A note on the format: this thesis is presented both as an online PDF as well as an audiovisual work. The text-based work was developed by scanning the printed thesis, parts of which were re-edited by hand, scanned, re-edited digitally, printed, edited manually again, and scanned once more. The final multi-format, glitchy form it takes plays on the theory, and vice versa. The result is a cross-breed between the classic tactile draft, handwritten notes, computer writing and formatting glitches, all of which can be consumed as an image and as a text simultaneously. Moreover, the work has also been translated into a 20 minute audiovisual presentation, which attempts to urge further questions into mediatic transferrals by experimenting with moving images and sound.

PDF

http://studio-47.org/de_jager/

VIDEO

<http://www.studio-47.org/mo/>