

The (Intermodal) Pictures on the Wall: Nomadic Snapshots, Thumbnail Texts, Emergent Archives

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This paper explores how design and cultural critique collide when working with a community to conceive and construct an emergent archive in which imagination, image and text also "kaleide" to support the development of new kinds of intermodal literacies.

We situate our investigation as a collaboration between a media researcher and a historian working over a series of months with a low-income, inner-city Dublin flat complex facing imminent demolition and reconstruction to create a large-scale, projected interactive public art installation. Using as starting points custom-built software called *TexTales* and an expressed desire by the community to create contemporary archives, the installation is designed to support playful experimentation as participants combine a subset of over 700 images shot and edited by residents with SMS text messages sent by residents and passers-by to create real-time, layered and dynamic image captions. In this way, we take a longitudinal, participatory design approach in which conversation, co-constructed ethnographies, interaction design decisions, photo images and SMS text captions all serve as the bases for the development of layered, emergent community-driven intermodal archives and for the creation of new epistemological tools, materials and activities to support the development of intermodal literacies.

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