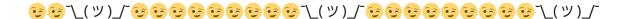
# Seira Uchida Portfolio

http://sesseee.se/

#### Research project

# Folktale-like encoding: Making joke indicator in the post-internet era.

2019-



This is a series of projects which aim to make effective 'Joke indicators' in the post-internet era by applying the function of folktales to the modern lifestyle and technological environment.

Whenever you talk on the internet, it is always important to show "joke indicators". Even in the dawn of the Internet era, this suggestion had been stated as one of net etiquette in 1983, on Usenet:

#### 8. Avoid sarcasm and facetious remarks.

Without the voice inflection and body language of personal communication these are easily misinterpreted. A sideways smile, :-), has become widely accepted on the net as an indication that "I'm only kidding". If you submit a satiric item without this symbol, no matter how obvious the satire is to you, do not be surprised if people take it seriously.

In 2005, Nathan Poe stated following in his axiom titled Poe's law.

"Without a winking smiley or other blatant display of humor, it is utterly impossible to parody a Creationist in such a way that someone won't mistake for the genuine article."

These two sentences suggest the importance of showing signs which apparently say 'It is JOKE'. But according an article written by Emma Grey Ellis from WIRED, these etiquettes such as ;-),  $\odot$  or  $\backslash (\mathcal{V}) /$  has begun to be forgotten. It means these functions has been out of date.

Back to the no internet era, there was creative usage of "sign of joke". Old-tales start and finish with set phrase like "Long long ago...". According to the studies by folktale researcher Toshio Ozawa, these set phrases worked as "sign of joke". They made possible to insert fiction into real timeline using this technique. And enabled to express emotion or tell stories without arguing whether it is fact or fake.

Through the project, I research techniques and structures of folktales as ways sharing emotions through fictions. And by applying them to the modern lifestyle and technological environment, I seek to create a modern-day folktale-like expression.



#### Research project & writing performance

### Folktale-like encoding #3: Convert fakenews into safe news

2020-

#### Research

The 'Internet meme' is a type of meme that is spread via the Internet, often through social media platforms. It contains many animals such as cats, dogs, frogs and so on. I research these animals and their stories, then write short stories that feature internet meme animals.

#### **Performance**

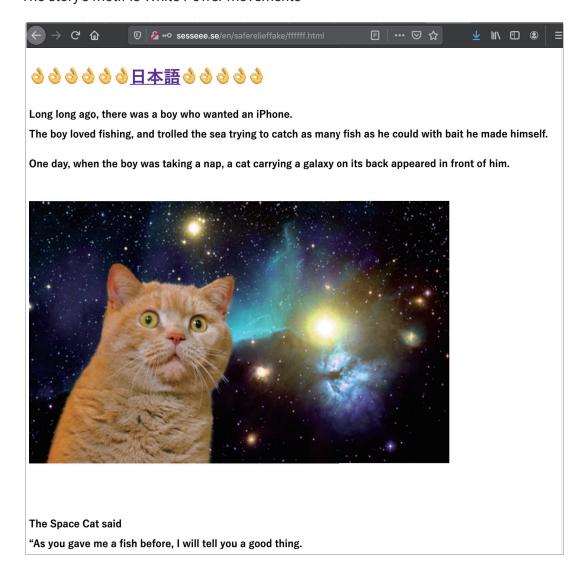
Based on the research, I do a performance named 'safe, relief fake news'.

Fakenews makes people mad. It is because it seems like fact for them. If so, is it possible to convert them into relief and safe one by making it more fake-like?

With that in mind, I would like to perform writing performances as an experiment to create safe and secure fake news.

#### URL: http://sesseee.se/en/saferelieffake/fffff.html

#ffffff is a color code which indicates 'white' for web browsers. The story's motif is White Power movements



#### Research project

#### Folktale-like encoding #2: Making method of 'Babiniku Oji-san'

2020-

'Babiniku Oji-san (バ美肉おじさん) ' is a kind of style that is seen with online entertainers or virtual idols. In this style, an adult male wears a female avatar. 'Babiniku' means 'virtual girl incarnation', and 'Oji-san' means adult male. I made the hypothesis that the style is used as a 'joke indicator', and try to confirm the hypothesis by VR media practice with actors and a playwright.

### URL: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HMYQaqLT7gChwzEeqiFj-EI7giSWqNvJ?usp=sharing

\*Because the project is in progress, I uploaded some archive of practice ( All conversation is in Japanese).









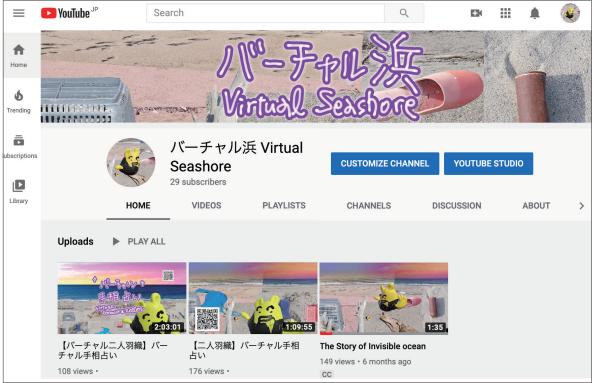
#### Research project

# Folktale-like encoding #1: Practice of Virtual YouTuber 'Virtual Seashore' 2019-

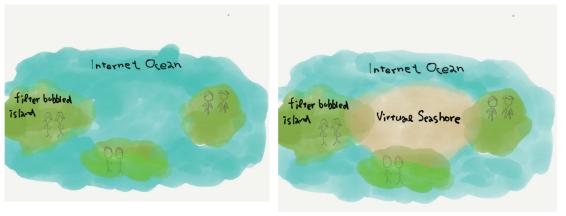
Virtual YouTuber is a VR culture from Japan featuring a YouTuber who is represented by a (usually anime-inspired) digital avatar.

I perform as a Virtual YouTuber called 'Mustard Cat', who has yellow skin, and tell a fictional story based on my everyday life and do a fortune-telling by collaborating with another artist. Through the project, I try to touch people who live in opposite shore of filter bubbles.

#### URL: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFwKmoyZL3AlBeq-mIIScXw



The screenshot of the project page.



Sketeches for the project.

#### mixedmedia

#### Virtual Mayoiga

2019

The folktale 'Mayoiga' is a Japanese folktale about a phantom house of fortune. People who find the Mayoiga can bring out one item from the house. I make a contemporary Mayoiga story through used commodities, and tell stories in virtual Youtuber style.

\*Selected as Supported Plan, Project to Support Emerging Media Arts Creators 2018



Installation view of SICF19 Winner's Exhibition ©Shota Uematsu





Installation view of SICF19 Winner's Exhibition ©Shota Uematsu

# Net art (online bookstore) Marginal Bookstore 2013-

This is a project that aims to give value to the written notes, lines, yellowing, missing pages, and stains of books that would normally be deemed to have low worth by paradoxically perceiving them as things of personal value, and distributing them as "Marginal books". Using Amazon, one of the giant distributors today, together with the blog service Tumblr, "Marginal books" are being collected, assessed, and sold.

Jury Selection, 18th Japan Media Art Festival
 Selected artist, 1floor 2014 Young Artist and Curator Support Project
 Won, 19th Campus Genius Award (Silver)

URL: http://yohaku-shoten.tumblr.com/



The screenshot of the store from tumblr.com side.

### Marginal bookstore's 3 Steps

#### 1. Collection

Collect 'Marginal books' by mail, personal delivery, and exploration of Amazon.

#### 2. Evaluation

Evaluate 'Marginal Books' by 'Marginal bookstore's guideliine'.

#### 3. Distribution

Throw 'Marginal books' into the distribution network using Amazon.co.jp and Tumblr.com.





### amazon 's Evaluation guideline

#### like a new

Minor damage possible

#### very good

Some limited signs of small scratches.

#### good

Shows wear from consistent use. It may be marked, have identifying markings on it,

#### acceptable

Signs of wear can include aesthetic issues such as scratches, dents, and worn corners. The item may have identifying markings on it or show other signs of previous use

#### Marginal bookstore's Evaluation guideline

#### collection-very good

Signs of personal fabrication can include aesthetic features such as scratches, dents, and worn corners. The item have personal information such as identifying markings on it or show other signs of reader's stories.

#### collection-good

Shows personal fabrications from consisten use. It may be marked, have personal information such as markings on, it

#### collection-acceptable

Some limited signs of personal stories.

#### not acceptable

Brand-new items or like a new items.







'Marginal books' which the store evaluates and sells.



#### ZINE and distribution performance

## Marginal Books Collection Vol.1 Outside of Amazon

2020

This is a new series of 'Marginal Bookstore' project.

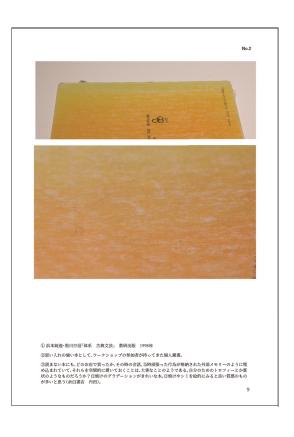
As the store uses Amazon.co.jp, there are some books that have been barred from sale by distribution Issues. This ZINE features 'Marginal books' that are unable to be sold on Amazon.co.jp. And by selling the book, the Marginal book store will throw barred 'Marginal books' into the distribution network again.

#### **About 'Marginal Bookstore'**

'Marginal Bookstore' evaluates printed books with reader's fabrication, that is, written notes, lines, yellowing, missing pages, and stains of books. Such books would normally be considered to have low worth, however, the store paradoxically perceive these books as things of personal value, and distribute them as "Marginal books". Using Amazon, one of the giant distributors today, together with the blog service Tumblr, "Marginal books" are being collected, assessed, and sold.

You can buy this zine on TRANS BOOKS DOWNLOADs .(https://transbooks.center/en/) URL: https://transbooks.center/en/downloads/works-11/





# collaboration project What is marriage? 2013-

This is a collaboration project with designer Hiroka Shimizu as a member of Bon-Jin( 凡人) Unit.

In Japanese,Bon(  $\[Pi]$  )" means ordinary, and jin(  $\[Pi]$  ) means people. We make dances and exercises for ordinary people. Our main project is titled "What is marriage?" Since 2013, Bon-jin Unit has interviewed approx. 60 people about images of marriage, and asked them to express their images by gestures. Based on these interviews, Bon-jin made Bon-Dance and Bon-exercise.

In Japan, people are threatened by pressure to get married in order to maintain images of "the correct family". For example, common-law couples or unwed mothers get less support from the government than people who get married. And when they get married, they can't choose to have different surnames, so most women change their surname to their husband's, and the husband is often called "Master".

Marriage contains private matters, so the interviewees can't talk about their experiences openly.

So we convert these experiences into body expressions, and enable them to share.

#### Bon Dance movie URL: https://bit.ly/3ekJDIq



Installation view of the exhibition at Gallery BIYONG Point, Akita, Japan



Installation view of the exhibition at Gallery BIYONG Point, Akita, Japan





Installation view of the exhibition at FRISE gallery, Hamburg, Germany













Gestures of marriage from interview clips. folding arms, equal, fight, hold, happy, fear