

_speed_test_README.txt

_speed_test_

https://www.instagram.com/_speed_test_/

README

_speed_test_ is a poem located at https://www.instagram.com/_speed_test_/. sourced from mainstream news websites, pay-per-click ads, spam emails, food ordering services, and the interfaces of software applications common to everyday tasks such as emailing and word processing, the screenshots in _speed_test_ were taken between march and april of 2021 using a private internet connection in the united states of america. the poem was arranged and posted to instagram on april 20 of that same year

_speed_test_ was made for instagram and is meant to be read there. it can be read either by opening the first post directly and scrolling vertically through each individual image, just as one would a regular instagram feed, or by reading the instagram profile from top to bottom, left to right, like any webpage or book

the object of _speed_test_ is to take a joke-practice of arranging screenshots into low-resolution social media "poems" and expand this form beyond the 10-slide limitation of single instagram posts

the subject matter of _speed_test_ is entirely incidental. its screenshots were taken without editorial or narrative vision, only momentary attention to language as toy or texture, with little mind as possible paid to context, signification, and any implied or real sub- or meta-texts

as such _speed_test_ is not particularly "about" anything, though being that it is sourced from a given set of commonplace internet locations, highly-trafficked news sources, and widely-used software interfaces, there are certain themes and topics that readily occur and recur. generally: cruelty and absurdity

with respect to language and poetics as material and system, _speed_test_ is particularly interested in units of meaning as relate to an ideation of "the lyric" extending beyond familiar notions of fragment or signal to explore the shard, the bit, the noise, the nothing. the poetic language of _speed_test_ is the garbage language of anti-poetry

what _speed_test_ hopes to do is excavate some of the latent meanings and hidden impulses, obsessions, violences, proclivities, and anxieties that underly the surface of contemporary digitized, algorithmized, and subsequently monetized online life. the objects that populate this neo-archaeological digsite are intrinsically dark, hopeless, inhumane, the artifacts of a late-capitalist anthropocene (sur)reality. but the true heart of _speed_test_ is a hopeful assay: to re-opt the necrolinguistic landscape of coercive advertisements, terror-filled news, and normally meaningless digital ephemera into a site of possibility populated by surprise, humor, pleasure, and play; the stuff of life and not of death; a future that is actual and not an apocalypse; poetry, though it may in the end not be that