

No Legacy || Literatura electrónica

February 16 - May 5

No Legacy || Literatura electrónica (NL||LE) originated at the Bancroft Library of UC Berkeley in spring 2016, curated by Alex Saum-Pascual, Assistant Professor of Spanish at UC Berkeley, & Élika Ortega, Assistant Professor of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies at Northeastern University.

NL||LE at CCA presents a subset of works from the original exhibition that focus on electronic literature in Spanish and English together with print works of contemporary post-digital experimentalism. Devoted to post digital issues, the works gathered here signal a nonlinear relationship between print and digital which blur the lines between them and look for instances in which they compliment each other. What is the role of print now that everything can be made digital? What are the ways digital objects are informed by print?

The exhibition showcases the use of computational and digital technologies in literary production in the networked world and its material connections with 20th-century technologized approaches to literature like futurism, concretism, creationism, stridentism, magical realism, and others. By bringing purposefully together a collection of print and electronic works in the single space of a gallery, NL||LE takes on a media archaeological perspective to create a "space of action for constructed attempts to connect what is separated," in Siegfried Zielinski's words. NL||LE asks questions that highlight unconventional literary relationships like the look or the handling of the works as objects.

As a space of action, NL||LE proposes to unfasten ideas of influence and evolution (as the basis of literary history) that connect the works' materialities and temporalities and compartmentalizes their global geographies and languages. Further, the curatorial practice of NL||LE seeks to reconnect the items in the collection by unearthing discontinuous relationships of tension, analogy, and coincidence. Though these kinds of relationships might appear idiosyncratic when put against systematic orderings of literature, they are revelatory of aesthetic and philosophical concerns traversing our notions of the literary.

The exhibit intervenes in the temporality of the works it brings together. NL||LE brings forth the historical dimension of its collection by incorporating vintage computers in the exhibit, next to mobile devices, and print materials from CCA Libraries' collections. While undeniably each one of the print and electronic pieces are products of their time, in the exhibit setting, and just for a moment, they all co-exist and speak to each other.

Additionally, the literary archaeology proposed in NL||LE offers the possibility of traversing languages and geographies. The pieces assembled for the exhibit are joined by material codes and meaning making systems that bypass language. The global scope of the exhibit, moreover, opens paths for interdisciplinary dialogue needed in a world in which information, literature included, moves well beyond borders, and where languages exist in a constant flow of exchange.

Class visits available: contact Lisa Conrad, Digital Scholarship Librarian, lconrad@cca.edu

Thank you to Alex and Élika, Cody Hennesy, E-Learning and Information Studies Librarian at UC Berkeley, and Greg Niemeyer, Associate Professor of Art Practice at UC Berkeley.

Website: <http://nolegacy.berkeley.edu>