

IMPORT PROJECTS

KEITHSTRASSE 10 / 10787 BERLIN

PRESS RELEASE

Print Wikipedia: from Aachen to Zylinderdruckpresse

ARTIST

Michael Mandiberg

CURATORS

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28.05 - 02.07.2016

OPENING HOURS
THURSDAY - SATURDAY

1-5 PM

X

VERNISSAGE

28 MAY

6-9 PM

A frozen moment in the life of the internet: a data scrape installation. *Print Wikipedia: from Aachen to Zylinderdruckpresse* is a time-slice of the world's most celebrated open source accumulation of human knowledge. Capturing this shifting digital object through a download, transformation and upload performance – an act akin to photography – New York based artist Michael Mandiberg then develops its image in print. Through this process of re-presentation the project stages the asymmetric scale of our relationship to big data, while questioning how storage modes condition various utilities of the archive in the 21st century.

Mandiberg has written software that parses the entirety of the Wikipedia database in order to programmatically lay out thousands of book-format volumes, complete with covers. These volumes are then uploaded for print-on-demand. While the download gesture makes the entirety of German Wikipedia available simultaneously, the upload highlights the lag between lived and digital time dimensions. Once it is complete, the set of volumes are already out of date – testament to the impossibility of rendering Wikipedia as a material object in fixed form.

The exhibition consists of the upload 'performance' of the 3406 volumes that constitute the German version of *Print Wikipedia* (today) to Lulu.com for print-on-demand, and the installation of selected volumes, including the *Wikipedia Contributor Appendix*, at Import Projects. The upload will take roughly 14 days, during which time this operation will be on continuous view. During this period, the gallery will remain open, reflecting the continuous work of the program. There will be two channels broadcasting this process: a projection of the Lulu.com site in a web browser, and a computer monitor with command line updates showing the dialogue between the code and the site. The script will also post to Twitter at @PrintWikipedia when each volume is finished. Selected volumes will be shelved against schematic wallpaper showing the scale of the full set of volumes, from from Aachen to Zylinderdruckpresse.

Michael Mandiberg is an interdisciplinary artist, scholar, and educator. His work traces the lines of political and symbolic power online, working on the Internet in order to comment on and or intercede in the real and poetic flows of information. He sold all of his possessions online on Shop Mandiberg, made perfect copies of copies on AfterSherrieLevine.com, created Firefox plugins that highlight the real environmental costs of a global economy on TheRealCosts.com, and transformed all of Wikipedia into books for Print Wikipedia. He is co-author of Digital Foundations and Collaborative Futures, as well as the editor of The Social Media Reader. He founded the New York Arts Practicum, and co-founded the Art+Feminism Wikipedia Editathon. A recipient of residencies and commissions from Eyebeam, Rhizome.org, The Banff Centre, and Turbulence.org, his work has been exhibited at the New Museum, Ars Electronica, ZKM, and Transmediale. His works has been written about in Artforum, ARTnews, The New York Times, The Washington Post, among others. A former Senior Fellow at Eyebeam, he is currently Associate Professor at the College of Staten Island/CUNY and a member of the Doctoral Faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center. He lives in, and rides his bicycle around, Brooklyn. His work lives at Mandiberg.com.

Project Supported by Wikimedia Foundation, Lulu.com, Wikimedia Deutschland, Denny Gallery, The Banff Centre, Eyebeam, and CUNY

EVENTS

Discussion & Reception

Virtually Physical: Collecting Digital Institutions

Thursday 2 June, 5–8pm.

(Talk begins 6pm)

During the Berlin Biennale opening week, Michael Mandiberg will be in conversation with artists Alfredo Salazar-Caro & William Robertson (Founders, Digital Museum of Digital Art / DiMoDA) and Olia Lialina (artist, theorist and Co-founder of the Geocities Research Institute).

Wikimedia DE Reception

Reception for local Wikipedians

Tuesday 31 May, 6-9pm

Hosted by Michael Mandiberg and Wikimedia Deutschland