

7AM, television on, morning show: "Good Morning America"
(animation of GOOD MORNING AMERICA is projected in the background)

Host: Good morning America. Today we have with us, Delia Goren, a historian of cultural technologies to tell us all about "The dead objects society". together, we will take a short look into the future of the past... , Good morning

Delia (turning to Delia)

Delia: Good morning... (smiling)

Host: Dead object society?

Delia: Yes. (Breathing) Apparently, some sort of ceremony took place in the lost city of venice. evidence put together from around the world suggests that people used to come to the city to immortalize their personal objects.

Host: so tell me all about this postcard we are now viewing...
(image of the front and back of the postcard is projected in the background)

Delia: it dates to Winter 2007. It was found in New england

‘My JAMES,
AGAIN IN ‘OUR ROOM’ IN VENICE (THE TOP FLOOR OF THE SAN MARCO PALACE HOTEL).
I MISS YOU NOW MORE THAN I EVER LOVED YOU. I FINALLY TOOK OUR WEDDING RING
OFF (YES, YOU CAN SMILE IF YOU CARE). IT IS NOW COMPRESSED TO A CUBE SO SMALL,
YOU WON’T EVEN SEE IT. I TOOK THE RING TO THE OBJECT CEMETERY IN THE TTI
CENTER. NO TEARS THIS TIME, I JUST WHISPERED TO THE MICROPHONE. I LOVE YOU
FOREVER, I LOVE YOU FOREVER, I LOVE YOU FOREVER XX.....X THE PEOPLE AROUND
COULD SEE ME, BUT THEY COULD NOT HEAR ME, I FELT LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE
THERE SURROUNDED BY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VARIETY OF CUBES ALL ARRANGED ON
ENDLESS SHELVES. WHEN THE PODIUM I WAS STANDING ON STARTED TO VIBRATE I
STEPPED DOWN GRACEFULLY . THE MAN IN A RED STRETCH SUIT INDICATED WITH
HIS HANDS, TO PLACE MY RING ON THE COMPRESSOR, AND STEP BEHIND THE CONTROL.’

(image of the objectifier machine from the front of the postcard is enlarged in background projection)

Host (now she is referring to the "objectifier machine", illustrated on the back of the postcard): yes... quite a primitive looking device...

Delia: we can see influences of modernism with medieval elements.

Host: so the objectifier was part of the ceremony... (goes back to read)

Delia: yes... listen to this ... ‘I PULLED DOWN THE HANDLE. IT WAS HEAVY, AND MASSIVE IT FELT AS IF I WAS SQUEEZING FLESH. I THOUGHT OF NOTHING. THE NEXT MOMENT THE MAN HANDED ME MY CUBE I REMEMBER THE WHITE OF HIS GLOVES. WHEN THERE WAS NO MORE NOISE, I WALKED AND PLACED THE LITTLE GOLDEN CUBE NEXT TO THE BIG BLACK AND WHITE CUBE I HAD AWOKEN BEFORE’ this fellow apparently buried his life diaries

‘THOUGH IT WAS MY MOMENT, MINE ONLY, I SHARE THIS LAST MEMORY OF US WITH YOU.
BE WELL,
MARIAN’

Host: ouch. so this place was about divorce ceremonies?

Delia: no... not quite.. presumably there were more cases such as this one, but we have quite a variety of stories left. we found cubes of parents who brought their children to part from their pacifier as a celebration of the beginning of their childhood. some of the most interesting evidence shows a variety of what we think were just personal ceremonies, people parted from what was considered in that time to be their most valuable belongings. the actual cubes (cut off)

Host: (cutting off) oh.. and now we can see the actual cubes that were found. so tell me about these cubes.
(image of the cubes in background projection)

Delia: well... I am very excited to show these images of the original object cubes. each cube contains the compressed object plated in glass. they believed that by taking away it’s function, immortality is granted. this first one on the left used to be a little girl’s teddy bear, today we know her as maria shneller the mother of telepathy parenting.

Host: So how many cubes have been found?

Delia: we are now in the process of analyzing the first few hundred cubes. each cube is carefully what they used to call ‘awakened’.

Host: awakened?

Delia: well (excited) one of the most exciting moments was when we brought what used to be the personal communication device, dating to the same period of time to the vicinity of one cube. as we brought it close, a sound, last words a goodbye came out of the device.

Host: telepathy tags?

Delia: no (laughs) a 200 year old revolution, Radio Frequency identification.

Host: well, any more astonishing testimonies?

Delia: some recordings included more than one person’s voice... sounding like people were arguing during the ceremony about its essence. why destroy their objects in order to immortalize them, they could not let go of their object...

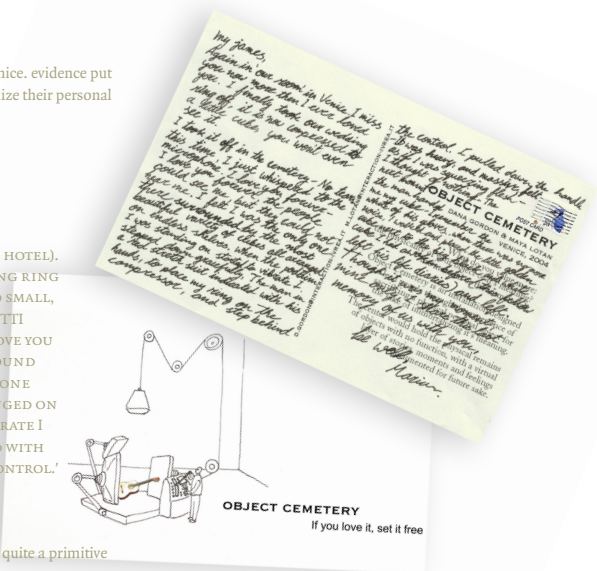
Host: mmm

Delia: there are stories of attempts to steal cubes by their original owners, or trade them for what the primitive trade - using what they called money.. substantial amounts!

Host: delia, so to end this great and short journey when did you get involved with this project?

Delia: I took part of second submarine venture to the lost city of venice January 2202.. I was brought in as soon as Rob Mallin and his team found first evidence, of what they think was called the future center (show the picture of the future center in the back)

Host: so, if you had a chance to leave an object behind?
i dont about you, but i would sure not leave my telepathon!
see you after the break!



Object Cemetery *Dana Gordon, Maya Lotan*

The field of exhibition interactives is growing and is particularly fertile for interaction designers interested in designing between the real and the virtual. In a two week workshop at Interaction Design Institute Ivrea, we used the Future Centre in Venice as a case study to address a range of different issues including strategy, communication, technical

