



Children's workshops

Initial proposal for TBWA



Communicating stories with media

This document proposes a series of children's workshops about communication for TBWA. It describes a collection of experiences in which different media are used to communicate a story. In the workshops children will explore some of the different media used for communication – image, motion, sound, light, verbal narrative, and their interrelationships. How can each of these media be used to communicate an idea or story? what are the special attributes of each medium that make it powerful as a communication tool?



Physical pixel

Children will build images using physical pixels – blocks with a white face and a black face. Drawings will be created by flipping pixels on a pixel tabletop. When the drawing is ready, the overhead camera will take a first snapshot. Then, pixels are changed and more snapshots are taken. On a screen, the snapshots are presented in sequence, creating an instant animated movie. As each snapshot is taken, the animation grows. Different resolutions can be experienced via different pixels tables: e.g. 12-by-12 pixels and 24-by-24 pixels.

Sound track

Children will experience how sound can create, enrich and change a story. Using their mouth, body, or different objects, they will generate and attach sounds to a given movie and/or to a movie created by them in the Physical Pixel workstation. Through this experience children will explore the relationship between sound and image. Recording and mixing the sounds, they will play with the ways in which different sounds affect a given image, the ways in which sounds can be layered, the importance of timing and more.



The set

Using a set structure that can be rearranged and modified, children will play with light elements and backdrops to understand how these elements create and change the atmosphere of a story. The set will be a vertical playground on which objects are hung and drawn, with openings for faces and hands, with buttons and elements to modify lights and maybe also sounds? Wind blown from a fan? Children can work together to create the set. Through a big mirror they will both participate in the set and experience its impact. Different set-stories will be photographed and displayed in sequence to create a funny emergent narrative.

Word-image

There are very different qualities to communicating through images and through words. This workshop enforces a split between images and words, to experience the two media at their fullest. Children will be divided into two spaces. In the “describing space” one child will be verbally described by his or her friends. This verbal description will be transmitted to the “building space”, where other children will construct a portrait according to the verbal description, using ‘feature pieces’. As the portrait is being constructed, it will be projected back into the first space, creating an ongoing dialog between image and words.

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Previous workshop website:

[http://projects.interaction-ivrea.it/
portraitworkshops/](http://projects.interaction-ivrea.it/portraitworkshops/)