



ENKI100.NET

An Internet Narrative Project by Robert Bramkamp and Susanne Weirich

ENKI100.NET is an Internet-based narrative project by Robert Bramkamp and Susanne Weirich featuring the positions of a hundred authors. In this project, 100 local (within the area of Lake Scharmützel) and international storytellers tell about testing the special abilities that the Sumerian god Enki bestowed onto them.

It is a multimedia networking project that plays with the possibilities of a new civilization through digitally implemented mythological systems, and that aims to combine the most varied perspectives possible. In 2004 and 2005, this participatory project of collective narration was funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

The Film: The Boat God of the Water Sports Club

As exposition to the Internet-based narrative project, the fictional documentary film *The Boat God of the Water Sports Club* was developed with the television broadcasting station arte. From mid-July 2004 to mid-September 2004, the director Robert Bramkamp, with his film crew and guests from around the world, developed the film and project in a creative workshop environment at Lake Scharmützel, close to Berlin. The research was fully documented on video and the images were incrementally released directly onto the Net. The starting point of the film and the project is the Sumerian myth of creation, "Enki and the World Order". As part of an employment-creation measure and with the intention of improving things, the Sumerian god Enki (Steffen Scheumann) replays the creation myth at the lakeside Wendisch-Rietz Water Sports Club in Brandenburg. In Sumerian mythology, the boat god Enki sailed to mankind and brought them civilization. Enki cooperates (today as he did back then) with local partners who, when testing their special abilities—the so-called "ME"—are supported by an international network.

The 100 ME correlate to a Sumerian myth about special abilities and powers that are not bound to people, but rather to specific locations. Now they are to be reactivated not only in the vicinity of the lakeside sports club in Wendisch-Rietz, but in the World Wide Web as well.

The Internet Narrative Project: ENKI100.NET

The core of the project, on the one side, is the cross-mapping of the Lake Scharmützel area in its function as the new sphere for the testing of civilization, where the effects of Enki and the ever-increasing implementation of the redefined ME capabilities are intensified through media resources and made noticeable by different people on the Internet platform www.enki100.net. And on the other side is the self-perpetuating network which, in accordance to the "laws" of the Internet and individual work contexts, supercharges the narrative potential of the "New World Order".

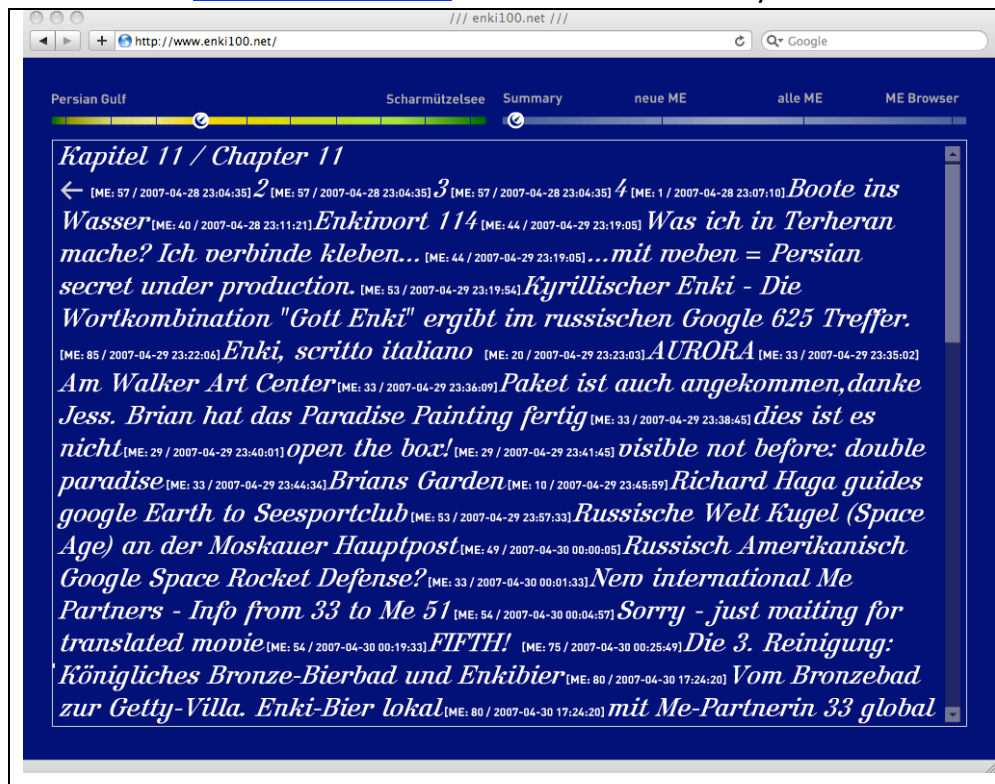
The actual collaborations that have taken place between Enki and local and international partners—for example, ENKI Beer—can be viewed via the Internet. The brewing of beer was invented by the Sumerians over 7,000 years ago. With this knowledge, Enki and his team began searching for a brewer that wanted to administer the ME of Beer Brewing in the 21st century. Helmut Fritsche, of the Klosterbrauerei Neuzelle ("Neuzelle Monastery Brewery"), declared himself willing to develop an ENKI beer, "the beer of the myths, the oldest beer in the world". The beer can be purchased over the website of both the brewery itself as well as at www.enki100.net. In a cooperation with the Esplanade Resort in Bad Saarow, which administers the ME of Sacred Rites of Purification, there is the exclusive possibility of taking a bath in the mythical ENKI Beer.



The story and documentation of these collaborations can be followed by looking under the respective ME numbers of the partners, for each ME has its own number: 80 for the ability to brew beer, for example, and 75 for the knowledge of the sacred rites of purification.

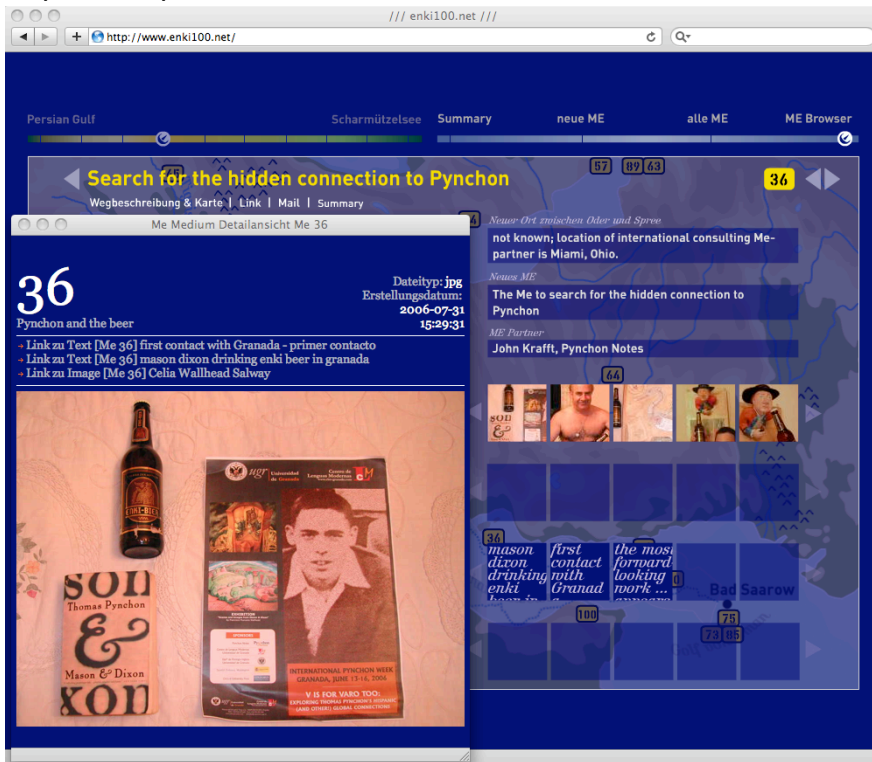


An overview of all the activities of the ME partners is found in the "Summary". The "Summary" consists of the titles that are given to each individual contribution that is uploaded by the partners. The collected titles create a non-linear, multi-voiced story. By now the **ENKI100.NET** project already has 13 chapters, all of which can be read on www.enki100.net under the "Summary" tab.



The Actors Online and On Location

An aspect of the networking is also the different statuses of the network partners that share their experiences in the execution of one or more ME. Unusual combinatorics is the explicit goal. The process of linking the abilities of the local residents with other, international partners via digital communication can expand in fantastic and evolutionary ways. For example: A group of Thomas Pynchon followers in Spain responded to ENKI Beer:



Among others, today's partners of the ENKI.100 Network include: dctp; Bauhaus University, Dessau (Prof. B. Siegert); push Design; the publishers Maas Media Verlag; University of Minneapolis (Prof. R. Hüser); Laura Mars Group; Edenstate.com (L.A.); the German Archaeological Institute; and the scholar of comparative religion, Manfred Bauschulte. Other partners include Burkhard Bastian of Wendisch Rietz, who runs a kiosk there and is the point of contact for information on the Internet project, and the Scharmützel Fishery, which executes the ME of Simultaneity.

The ENKI100.NET project combines future work forms, 100 ME abilities, the lakeside Wendisch-Rietz Water Sports Club and Enki, the god of creation, into an open narrative in which everyone who has access to digital communication can participate. As a result, the project makes the energy of information and speculation tangible: it simulates and tests the actuality of your feedback effect within the social reality.

Press and reviews (excerpts)

"Bramkamp's film is an element of a project which is being continued on the Internet. There, everybody can emulate Enki and to bring abilities and knowledge into play so as to enable the continuance of the lakeside boat club. With this, the film moves further into the world which one enters when one leaves the cinema."
Michael Girke, Filmdienst 2006

"Sometimes reality can be set in vibration by slight displacements."
Silvia Hallensleben, Der Tagesspiegel 2006

"Exactly that, however, brings the documentary aspect of the film back into play: The question of the maintenance and development of the lakeside sport club's social topography. On the Internet, the website www.enki100.net continues to promote and drive the pertinent artistic activities of the network project."
Brigitte Werneburg, TAZ 2006

"As a whole, a 'narrative project' is being dealt with here—and with that, actually, art. In contrast, for example, to many Internet concepts at the Transmediale Festival—where Bramkamp's work was also introduced—this project is primarily grounded (anchored) and does not need to struggle through its commoditization to get recognition and/or "clicks". (...)The project 'Enki100.Net' is unlimited in how far it can rise, but when looking down it focuses on the virtual powers that contribute to the preservation and expansion of the social topography of the Lakeside Sports Club Association. (...) "World class" is a question of capital expenditure (either as a shy deer or as a voracious locust); in the narrative project Lakeside Sports Club of Scharmützel Lake, in contrast to the Recreation Center Bad Saarow, symbolic capital comes into play most of all."
Helmut Höge, TAZ 2006

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