Textual Environments: Distributed Media Architecture in Print-Digital Literature

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Poetry Moving Forward

“a new poetry for the next century must be developed in new media, simply because the textual aspirations of the authors cannot be physically realized in print. The old storage medium created by Gutenberg must now be replaced by floppy and hard disks, CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs and SuperCDs, magneto-optical disks, tape, and holographic film”

Eduardo Kac. New Media Poetry, 1996
Poetry Moving Forward

“works created with, through, and for media and environments as diverse as video, electronic displays, computers, holograms, biotechnology, early and contemporary digital networks, cellular phones and other mobile media, skywriting and its logical consequence: outer space”

Eduardo Kac. Media Poetry. 2007
“discover fractures or turning points in historical master plans that provide useful ideas for navigating the labyrinth of what is currently firmly established” (Zielinsky 2006).
Strong Standing of Print

Jorge Carrión.
Crónica de Viaje.
Aristas Martínez
2014
Paul Zelevansky. The Case for the Burial of Ancestors, 1985
O Livro depois do Livro (2001)
El libro del fin del mundo (1996-2002)
Aaron Reed & Jacob Garbe Ice-Bound, 2016
Distributed Architecture: A media juncture

Challenge the discrete status of media realms,

Question the default uses of the “devices” involved,

Advance a poetics emerging from media fusion,

Offer a historical backdrop of media developments and literary interventions
Distributed Architecture

“...a book is conceived as a distributed object, not a thing, but a set of intersecting events, material conditions, and activities.”

Technological developments, periodization, and regionalization

Interstitial practices
Changes in practices
regional, at times national, manifestations of digital culture counter the single future of digital development as purported by the centers of innovation in the global North or as she calls it, the ‘myth of digital universalism’.

Examples all over the world
What are those manifestations or practices?
Creates specific reading conditions that take the reader from one device to another through mechanisms, technical as well as metaphorical.
Mechanisms

Handling as reading

clickable poem@s

Anacrón

El libro del fin del mundo
Hybrid languages (human, machine)

The Code is not the Text (unless it is the Text) – John Cayley (2002)
Intermediation

- Material bridge
- Gestures and performative movements
- Non-default uses
Thank you!
Questions?