Konstantina (Dida) Papalexandrou	*Paper:* **Artplanktos: The travelling net- art project**

Topic: Software Art - Web Art

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Abstract:
Inspired by Sherry Levine's[1] statement that "a painting's meaning lies not in its origin but in its destination", Artplanktos' project was created to explore the artwork's search for a new meaning via the search for a destination. Artplanktos is an ongoing travelling net-art, fully autonomous as it transforms through its journey.

 The word "artplanktos" comes from the word "art" and the Greek word "plankton". The latter is derived from the ancient Greek "plagtos" which means "the wanderer," the "one that travels around". Artplanktos consists of 27 artworks created on paper that include small relief dots used in Braille. The repetition of these dots, and the empty spaces around them, creates a unique canvas which helps the artist to overcome the primary artistic rules of form and composition. As conceptual art has suggested, these traditional artistic rules are not compulsory or even necessary to support a work of art. Other characteristics are required which can be derived from self-defined and autonomous systems.

Each Artplanktos artwork begins its lonely journey from different starting points (e.g. Greece, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Serbia, England, Russia, Spain, Portugal, US, etc.). The artwork is left "out in the streets" waiting for someone to pick it up. On the reverse of each artwork, written instructions in 27 languages explain the concept of the project. The instructions refer to the artwork's essence; it is not a lost piece of art but rather a traveler, asking for help in order to continue its journey. The founders can take it with them and keep it as long as they want, but it is very important to let it go when they wish, to allow it to continue its journey.

It is also crucial for the project that the traveling procedure is monitored. For this reason a supporting site exists where the founder responds to particular questions that form the artwork's CV. Every time there is an input, the artwork is taking something from the participant, who is now becoming a co-creator.

Every little trip reforms the artwork's journey. Each journey is unique and continuous. Every artwork's CV is enriched with the journey's information. This information restates the artwork and transforms it from the "it" to the "he" and/or "she" state; thus establishing a new identity. Finally, the artwork emerges as a unique, independent and self-managed unity which is defined by human designated characteristics.

The developmental stages of the project lasted 4 years and were monitored step by step because they were considered to be very important. The first Artplanktos artwork started its journey in 2007. Computer technology was not only used as a tool for the construction of the project but was also a vital part of it, as it supports its existence. So far, Artplanktos has traveled in three continents and the journey continues…

References:
[1] S. Levine, "Statement", Style, 1982

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