

Interface Art vs. Interface Trivialization

“Small changes in the details of a digital design can have profound unforeseen effects on the experience of the humans who are playing with it. The slightest change in something seemingly trivial as the ease of use of a button can sometimes completely alter human behavior.” —Jaron Lanier, *You Are Not A Gadget*

Interface Art is an emerging art form that reflects on those effects and the multifold issues that come with these small changes.

Submit Button 2003



The legendary Submit Button is a 50 by 100 cm large-scale real-life model of his virtual counterpart used since Windows 95. Initially contributed to the exhibition ‘The First Ten Years of WWW’, it has become an icon of the media change we witness today. By means of Like and +1 buttons everybody seems to submit everything nowadays. But to whom do we actually submit? Gone are the days when submitting was one-to-one communication.

Freedom from Porn 2010



In a revealing discussion with Gawker blogger Ryan Tate, Steve Jobs offered iPad users “freedom from porn”. And yet the iPad's measures offer an unprecedented porn experience.

If not—it is due to the platform only.

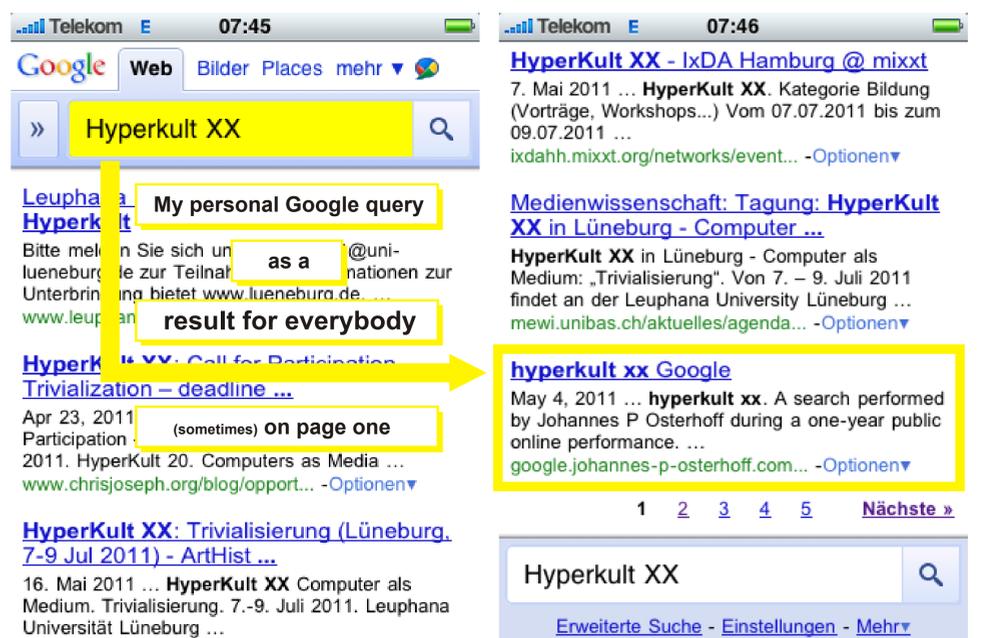
This infamous ad-busting from Berlin Mitte attracted a lot of media attention and it eventually inspired the work of even more rigorous ad-busters who spread the message to WWDC 2010.

Home, Sweet Home 2010



Home is where one’s heart is—with a solid door, curtains and shuttered windows. Is that why Apple users live in bourgeois allotment gardens houses? Anyway—my construction of the home folder icon from OS X awaits its inhabitants. Freed from the uncanny valley of interface design, “Home, Sweet Home” was shown in real public space on the streets of Berlin, at Ars Electronica (2010) and in St. Oberholz (2011).

Google One Year Piece 2011



“I shall do a one year performance piece.

The piece is called ‘Google’ and documents all searches I perform with the search engine of the same name. Each of my search queries shall create a webpage that is indexed by this search engine and thus creates a feedback loop. The performance starts on January 1, 2011 and ends on December 31, 2011. I shall not use undocumented ways to use the mentioned search engine during this time.”