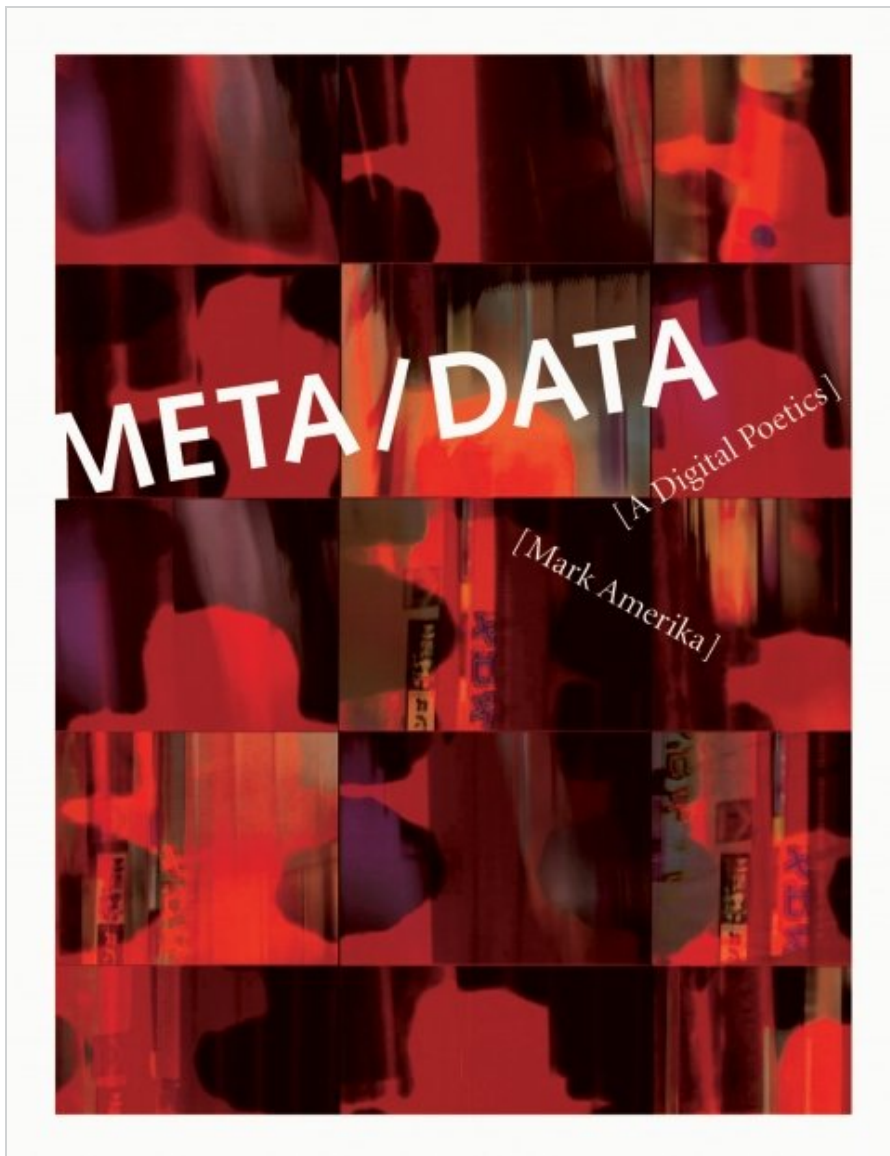




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META/DATA



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META/DATA **A Digital Poetics**

By [Mark Amerika](#)

Blending artist theory, personal memoir, satire, and fictional narratives, a

noted net artist constructs a poetics of net art that parallels his practice.



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Endorsement



Meta/Data perfectly captures the essence and style of pioneering net artist and online fiction writer Mark Amerika. Featuring a mix of scholarly theory, personal narrative, and conversations with peers, the book provides both meta data on the artist's multifaceted body of work and insightful commentary on digital poetics and culture. The personae Amerika has created for himself from 'digital thoughtographer' to VJ as artist-researcher are reflected as different viewpoints in the book's stories, theoretical essays, and dialogues, and make it a multilinear read that mirrors the diversity of digital culture.

Christiane Paul, Adjunct Curator of New Media Arts, Whitney Museum of American Art

Overview

Author(s)

Praise

Summary

Blending artist theory, personal memoir, satire, and fictional narratives, a noted net artist constructs a poetics of net art that parallels his practice.

This rich collection of writings by pioneering digital artist Mark Amerika mixes (and remixes) personal memoir, net art theory, fictional narrative, satirical reportage, scholarly history, and network-infused language art. META/DATA is a playful, improvisatory, multitrack "digital sampling" of Amerika's writing from 1993 to 2005 that tells the early history of a net art world "gone wild" while simultaneously constructing a parallel poetics of net art that complements Amerika's own artistic practice. Unlike other new media artists who may create art to justify their theories, Amerika documents the emergence of new media art forms while he creates them. Presenting a multifaceted view of the digital art scene on subjects ranging from interactive storytelling to net art, live VJing, online curating, and Web publishing, Amerika gives us "Spontaneous Theories," "Distributed Fictions" (including his groundbreaking GRAMMATRON, the helpful "Insider's Guide to Avant-Garde Capitalism," and others), the more scholarly "Academic Remixes," "Net Dialogues" (peer-to-peer theoretical explorations with other artists and writers), and the digital salvos of "Amerika Online" (among them, "Surf-Sample-Manipulate: Playgiarism on the Net," "The Private Life of a Network Publisher," and satirical thoughts on "Writing As Hactivism"). META/DATA also features a section of full-color images, including some of Amerika's most well-known and influential works. Provocative, digressive, nomadic, and fun to read, Amerika's texts call to mind the cadences of Gertrude Stein, the Beats, cyberpunk fiction, and even The Daily Show more than they do the usual new media theorizing. META/DATA maps the world of net culture with Amerika as guide and resident artist.

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AUTHORS

Mark Amerika

Mark Amerika, named a "Time Magazine 100 Innovator" in 2001, is an interdisciplinary artist and Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His works include the epic online narrative GRAMMATRON, selected for the 2000 Whitney Biennial; the sound art work PHON:E:ME, commissioned by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art in Western Australia; and FILMTEXT 2.0, initially commissioned by Sony PlayStation 2 as part of a major retrospective at the ICA in London. He is the author of two novels, *The Kafka Chronicles* and *Sexual Blood*. In 1993 he became founder and publisher of Alt-X.

Endorsements

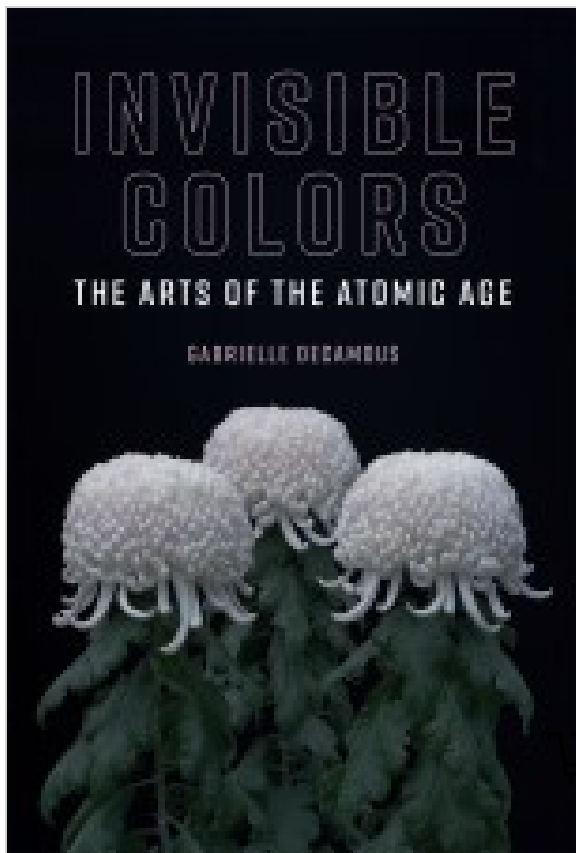
Meta/Data perfectly captures the essence and style of pioneering net artist and online fiction writer Mark Amerika. Featuring a mix of scholarly theory, personal narrative, and conversations with peers, the book provides both meta data on the artist's multifaceted body of work and insightful commentary on digital poetics and culture. The personae Amerika has created for himself from 'digital thoughtographer' to VJ as artist-researcher are reflected as different viewpoints in the book's stories, theoretical essays, and dialogues, and make it a multilinear read that mirrors the diversity of digital culture.

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Mark Amerika is at the cutting edge of developments in both art and technology. *META/DATA* is an indispensable guide to the promises and potentials of new media and also to the hype, irony, and disappointment that all too often surround them.

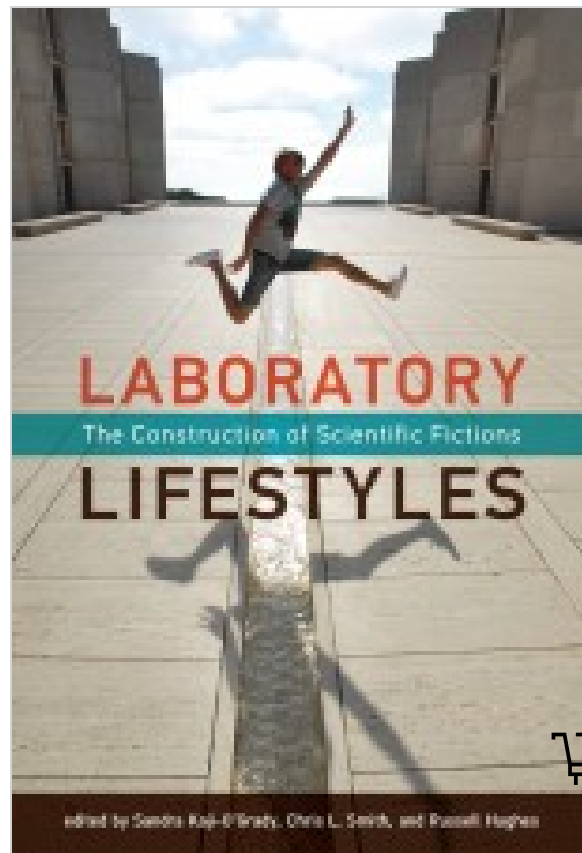
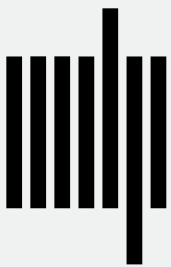
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