

## SCRIPT

### DIVINATION BOTS

#### 0.1. cleansing of the space: (5') A

0.1.1. service email: sage/incense, candle, jarr of clear water, yoga mat/soft surface to lay on, blanket, laptop, twitter account, familiarity with cheapbotsdonequick (recommended)

0.1.2. perform a cleansing ritual together (open windows and smudge space)

#### 0.2. centering: brief breathing and embodiment exercise to start (5') A

0.3. QUICK INTRO participants 1' each - name, city, one word on what they do, one word on how you feel eg. danae, rotterdam, magic, crazy (15')

0.4. introduction to our work (15') / Please ask us questions through the chat during this short introduction and we'll try to respond to them

0.4.1. Danae: Digital Witchcraft - the politics of witchcraft (5') / I'm Danae and I'm part of Digital Witchcraft, ours is a collective that explores the intersection of magic and technology. Initially, these two realms seem very distant from each other however our research demonstrated that the computational world is full of mystical references and similarities with supernatural traditions. For instance, many researchers have established a parallel between coding and casting a spell, what we do is to highlight such parallels and intervene in the cybernetic as well as in the mystical world to test the limits of our computational possibilities. This workshop is an example of that because through simple coding we will access oracular knowledge.

0.4.2. Annika: Deep Planetary Sensing - the intelligence of the body beyond capitalism (5') / I'm Annika and currently developing a participatory research project called Deep Planetary Sensing that seeks to reconnect us with our individual and collective bodies, and to enter into conversation with the Earth. Through a series of soundwalks, immersive installations and performances it researches embodied experiences of connectivity in relation to our planet and how they are mediated by technology. The different works explore connectivity through the body to develop alternative ways of using and creating technology. In this workshop we use guided meditations to access alternative ways of creating and relating to the idea of what bots and oracles can be. This methodology can of course be applied to other tasks, projects and questions.

0.4.3. conversation - why is this workshop relevant - we're answering questions from the chat too (5') / Creating a Twitter bot does not really require advanced coding skills, if someone's interest is to just learn the technical aspect they could check one of the many tutorials that are available on the web. This exercise is different because it adopts a critical approach towards the bot, a format that has been associated with "de-humanized" content such as fake news. For us, a bot is an opportunity to easily create automated content and the options are so many. In this particular workshop we will explore the bot format and its possibilities as a divinatory device. Complementary to a linear creation process we use our inner imagery and our somatic experience to access knowledge and ideas that are already contained in our bodies, but that we oftentimes don't know how to activate or use. This can enable alternative experiential

perspectives of technology and our (individual/collective) bodies. In this workshop we will explore what kind of inner images bots and oracles evoke, and what their somatic dimensions can be.

0.5. explanation of the workshop, (15')

0.5.1. what is a bot, autopoietic systems, posthumanism (5') D / a bot is a computational device that produces automated content, while some can consider a bot an example of artificial intelligence, it is central to say that what is most important about the content it produces is the input the bot has to work. Technology, in this sense, is not neutral because it depends on the conditions it was designed. When we see examples of racist technology is because their creators incorporated their racist biases, for example face recognition technologies that do not register black faces. The same will happen to the bots we will create, we will introduce aspects of our own cosmologies, and the bot will work around this input, this is also why we're trying to create this atmosphere: to facilitate a space for mystical design.

0.5.2. show examples of bots (5') D

0.5.2.1. <https://twitter.com/TheHildebot> (mystic medieval knowledge)

0.5.2.2. <https://twitter.com/queerlitbot>

0.5.2.3. <https://twitter.com/GildaBot> (conversations with the dead)

0.5.2.4. <https://eloraculo.com.ar/ocp/> (film and divination)

0.5.3. with this examples think of what type of divinatory bot you want to build

0.5.4. how we can use guided meditations/journeying to come up with ideas(5') A / relaxation techniques can help us to connect with our body and access our inner worlds that oftentimes contain ideas and solutions that we could not access through the mind alone. We learn to ask ourselves questions, set intentions and allow answers and ideas that lead us further in our creative process to emerge.

0.6. BREAK (10')

0.7. show our bot template and arcana (5') D / we created our own bots beforehand, check the bot I did in this twitter account and check the elements that operated as our arcana

0.8. 1st guided meditation: soundpiece PRĀNIC GRID + narration (25-30')A

[https://soundcloud.com/ak7000/pranic\\_grid\\_instrumental/s-POO9nfyMLdK](https://soundcloud.com/ak7000/pranic_grid_instrumental/s-POO9nfyMLdK)

0.9. people start doing the bots - <https://cheapbotsdonequick.com/> (45')

0.9.1. annika and danae show their own bots and the coding behind them, we also explain we're doing a website that will host our universe of bots

0.9.2. people start coding and we assist / have your twitter account ready and log with it to cheapbotsdonequick, you can have for instance three lists one for nouns, one for verbs, one for emojis, and then you can play with the combinations

0.10. BREAK (15')

0.11. sharing 5 volunteers (25') A

0.12. 2nd guided meditation: soundpiece GAIA Rising + narration (15') A

[https://soundcloud.com/ak7000/gaia-rising\\_instrumental/s-CizkUsGUzws](https://soundcloud.com/ak7000/gaia-rising_instrumental/s-CizkUsGUzws)

0.13. more bot working (30')

0.14. closing ceremony: sharing of divinatory images (15')

Resources:

If you would like to use this methodology in your creation process you can work with these guided meditations by Annika (voice & sound)

PRĀNIC GRID <https://annikakappner.bandcamp.com/track/pr-ic-grid>

GAIA Rising <https://annikakappner.bandcamp.com/track/gaia-rising>