LOVE WILL GUIDE YOU

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ABSTRACT

This project is designed to help the people who are very shy to express their real emotions to the girl or boy they love, in an interesting, interactive and maybe romantic way. It includes a webcam based interactive application, made by Processing and Max/Msp/Jitter. This article introduces the concept, inspiration, progress of this project, and future direction for this project.

Keywords

Interactive, Max/Msp Jitter, Processing, Expression, Shyness.

INTRODUCTION

This project is designed by Boshan Zhou. It is designed to help some shy people to express their real emotions to the girl or boy they loves in an interactive and lovely way. It includes a webcam based interactive application and a special custom designed Magic 8 Ball gift. People could choose the way they want to use to express themselves, they could see the information of this project on the official website: http://www.lovewillguideyou.com In the application, people can use their body gestures to touch and affect the movement of the 'hearts' on the screen, and when people's body contacts the 'hearts', it will generate different voices and music, such as 'I love you', 'Can I buy you a drink', 'Can I date with you', 'I miss you', 'Would you marry me'. It is just like we use the 'hearts', we use our hearts, instead of our mouths, to express our loves. The custom designed Magic 8 Ball is to let people design and put their own texts in the Magic 8 Ball, and send it as a gift.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nowadays, more and more people, especially some men, tend to feel more embarrassed and shy to express themselves directly, sometimes men always feel embarrassed to say sorry, or express their real love and feeling to the people they love. Especially for some shy people, it is very hard to express their real feelings and emotions directly by mouth. Express ourselves directly might be good, but sometimes, express ourselves in some other way, might bring more fun and extra good feeling. So

I was wondering that wether the shy people can use another way to express themselves efficient, and to make it interesting and cute.

INSPIRATION

My inspiration for this project is from one of my friend. He is really a shy guy and always feel embarrassed to express his love to the girl he loves. I want to help him, I want to help this kind of shy people to express themselves. So I came up with this idea that I want to make an interactive and interesting way to help shy people express themselves.

RESEARCH

I did some research of the preference and custom of the shy people. In humans, shyness (also called diffidence) is a social psychology term used to describe the feeling of apprehension, lack of comfort, or awkwardness experienced when a person is in proximity to, approaching, or being approached by other people, especially in new situations or with unfamiliar people. In addition, shyness may manifest when one is in the company of certain people and completely disappear when with others— one may be outgoing with friends and family, but experience love-shyness toward the girl or boy they love. That means, the shy people is not always shy or feel embarrassed, they feel shy and embarrassed only when they approach to someone, or express themselves directly by mouth. They feel comfortable when they surf on Internet and with friends and family. As a result, it is possible and comfortable for them to express themselves through a webcam based application, if they could only see themselves on the screen.

That is, if we can design an interesting way for them to express themselves efficiently and will not let them speak directly to the people who might make them feel embarrassed or shy, they will feel comfortable to do this.

On the other hand, I did some research from some girls, especially, I asked one of the friend of that girl my friends loves, about that girl's personality, preference, interests. The most important information I got is, that girl, and most of the girls I asked think that if a real shy guy express himself

in an interesting and cute way, it might have a great and positive effect.

PRECEDENTS
One of the precedents came up in my brain and inspired me is a body gesture and projector based interactive instrument made by Max/Msp/Jitter and Kinect. It use Max/Msp/Jitter

to generate sound and melodies, and use 'box2d' library to make 'boxes' moving on the screen, use Kinect to detect the body gestures. So when we touch the boxes on the

screen, they will make sound and melodies, and we could affect their movements, just like we are hitting some boxes in reality.

Another precedent inspired me is Pick Up Lines Generator (http://www.pickuplinegen.com/). This is a website that could generate some texts randomly.

When you click the 'Generate new' button, it will generate a random text for you, such as 'Be unique and different, say yes.' It inspired me that we might use texts to express ourselves, this Pick Up Lines Generator creates random texts, we could make custom designed texts, to put it in something, and send to the people they love, as a gift.

INITIAL PROTOTYPE
My initial idea is to make an interactive instrument that we could use our body gestures to play different notes. When our body move to different directions, it will play different notes. I use Max/Msp/Jitter to generate melodies, use openCV in openFrameworks to do body detection. Then,

use OSC and 'udpreceive' object in Max/Msp/Jitter to connect openCV with Max/Msp/Jitter. As a result, openCV could send body detection messages to Max/Msp/Jitter and control the data in it. At this stage, I can use body gestures to play different notes generated in Max/Msp/Jitter. However, it is very difficult to control the notes, and it just make some sound, nothing special about expressing.

PROGRESS
As I think my initial prototype is not straight forward, efficient and interesting enough to express emotions, I came up with a new interactive way for this webcam based interactive application. That is we could see ourselves on the screen and interact and affect the objects on the screen. I choose to use Processing to do the blob detection and make the objects on the screen. I use Max/Msp/Jitter to generate melodies and play different samples. Then, use OSC library in Processing, and 'udpreceive' object in Max/Msp/Jitter to connect them with each other. As a result, Processing could send messages to Max/Msp/Jitter and control the data in it. The effect would be like this: we could touch and affect the movement of the objects on the screen, and when we touch them, they will generate different melodies or play different samples.

Max/Msp/Jitter

I use 'udpreceive' object in Max/Msp/Jitter to receive the data and messages sent by Processing. Then I set the port number in Max/Msp/Jitter to be the same as the port number in Processing. And I use 'poly' and 'buffer' objects in Max/Msp/Jitter to load and play different samples. Use 'um' object to generate random numbers, so it will play different samples in 'poly' object randomly. When Max/Msp/Jitter receive the data and messages from Processing, it will send a 'bang' message to the button, and then it will play the samples randomly.
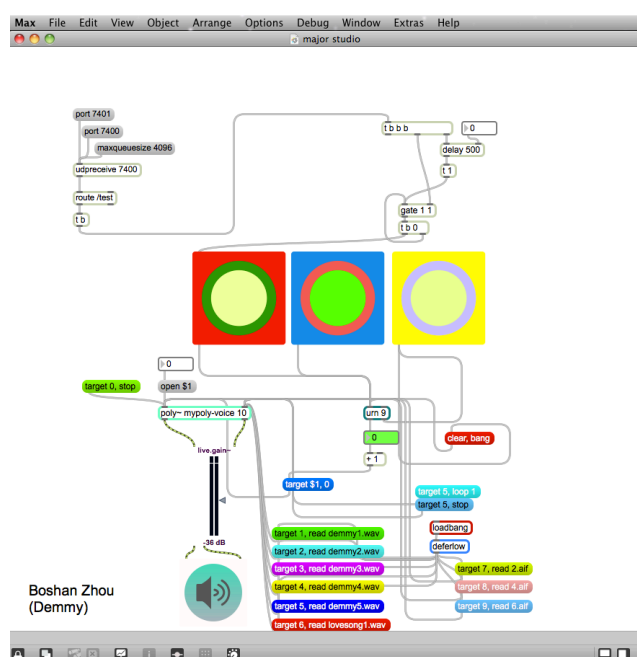
Processing

I use Processing to do blob detection, and make some ellipses moving on the screen, then use the image of the heart to replace the ellipses. As a result, it looks like many hearts is moving on the screen. Also, I use Open Sound Control library to send messages and data from Processing to Max/Msp/Jitter. When the body contacts the hearts, Processing will send the messages and data to Max/Msp/Jitter. As a result, when we touch the hearts and change the movement of the hearts, it will send messages to Max/Msp/Jitter, and then it will play different samples. The key point in this Processing sketch is to use the OSC library to send the message to Max/Msp/Jitter, the code of this part is as below:

```
OscMessage myMessage = new OscMessage("/test");

myMessage.add(123); /* add an int to the osc message */

 /* send the message */

oscP5.send(myMessage, myRemoteLocation);
```

The 'myRemoteLocation' need to be set up in 'void setup ()' as myRemoteLocation = new NetAddress("127.0.0.1", 7401); The '127.0.0.1' is the IP address, and the '7401' is the port number, it should be the same as the port number in Max/Msp/Jitter.
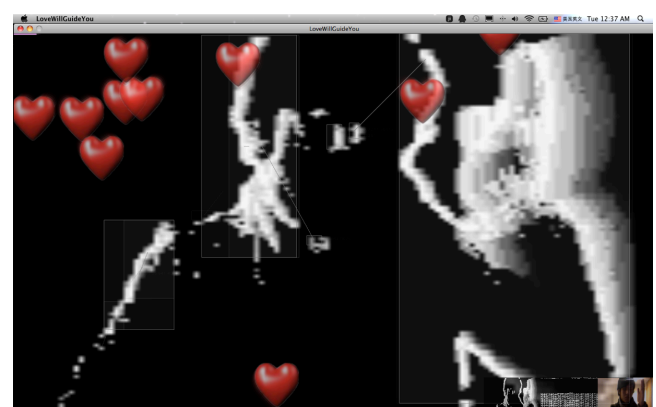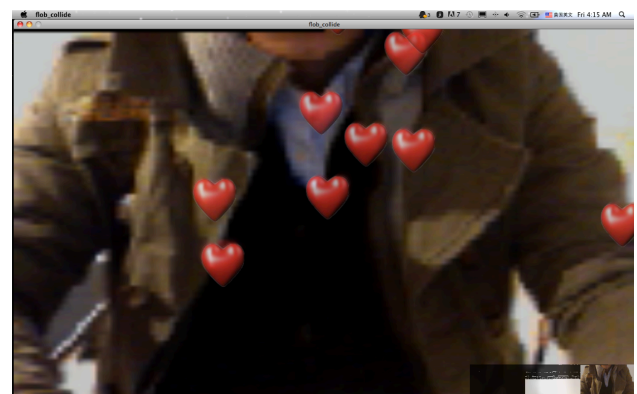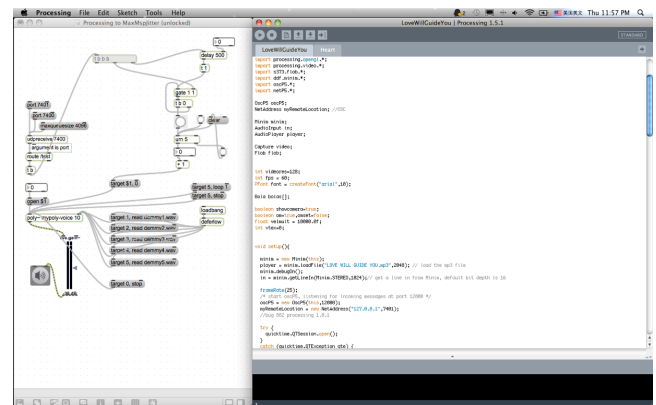
Official website

I decide to make a official website for this project, and the name of this website is 'Love Will Guide You'. It includes the introduction of this project and I will put the interactive application's example video on it. Also, I came up with a new idea that is to make a custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball, for some shy people who prefer to express

themselves by texts, and they can design their own texts, put them in the Magic 8 Ball, and send it as a gift to the girl or boy they love. As a result, the official website should includes the webcam based interactive application and the Magic 8 Ball plan, it offers different plans and ways for people to choose which way they want to use.
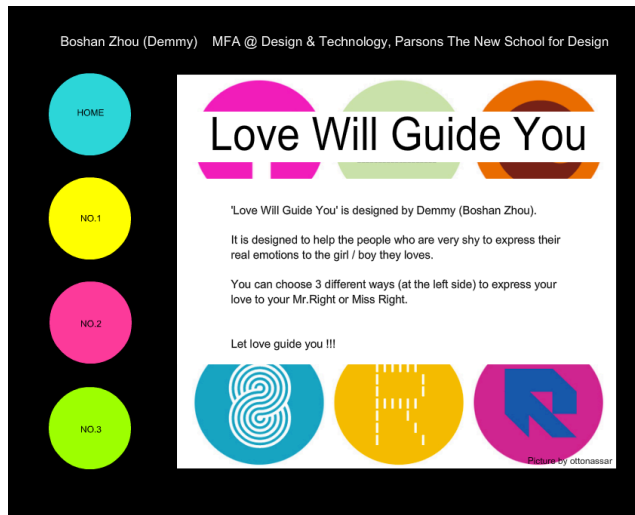

FINAL VERSION
The final version of this project includes the completed webcam based interactive application, the concept of the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball plan, and the official website of this project.

Official website
The official website called 'Love Will Guide You'.

It includes four pages. The first page is the introduction of this project. It introduces and offers different ways to let people choose. The page 'No.1' introduces the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball plan.
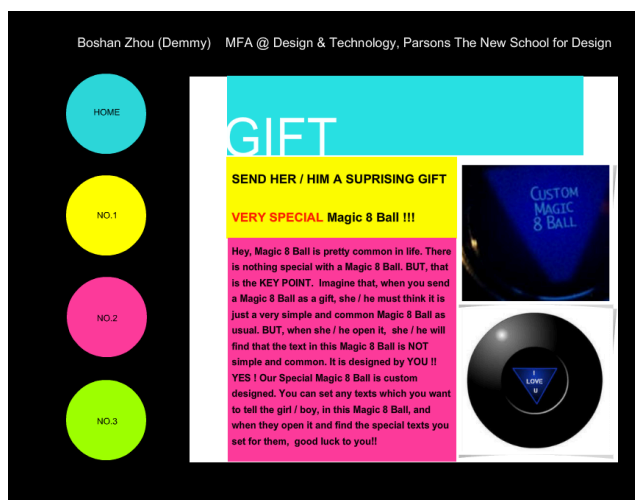
page No.1

The page 'No.2' introduces the webcam based interactive application, and it includes the example video of this application.
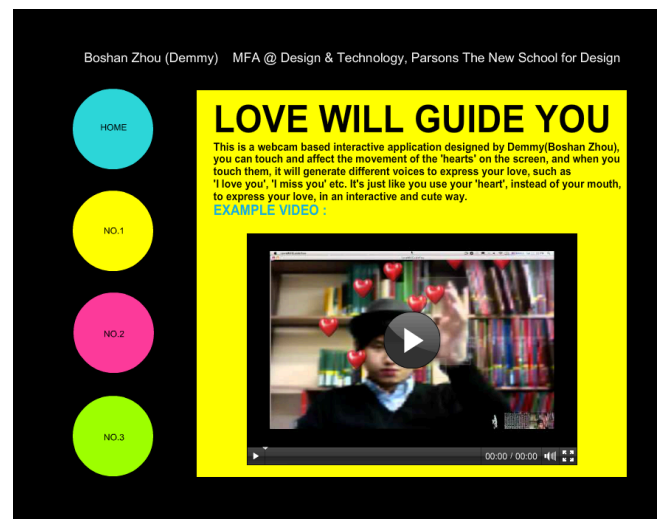
page No.2

The 'No.3' page is to encourage shy people to send a email directly to the girl or boy they love.


page No.3

Interactive application
The final version of the webcam based interactive application achieved the effect I want, that is when we touch the 'hearts' on the screen, it will move to another direction and generate different voices and music. The voices are some samples recorded by me, such as 'I love you', 'I miss you', and I put them in the Max/Msp/Jitter. Also, I put some samples of the melodies in Max/Msp/Jitter , so when we touch the 'hearts', it will not only generate the voices, but also it sometimes will play some

beautiful melodies. This might make it more diverse and interesting.
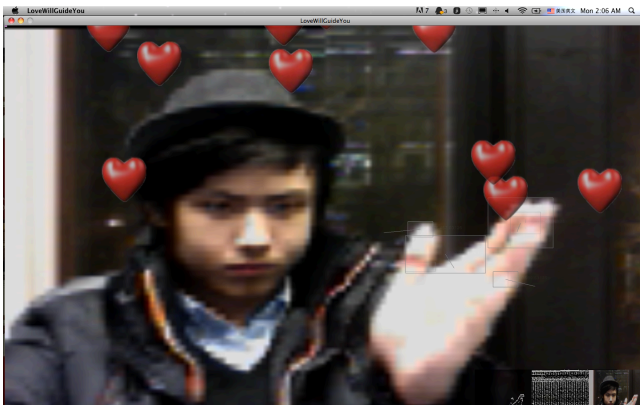
Magic 8 Ball
I put the the concept and introduction of the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball on the official website. The concept and introduction of this Magic 8 Ball is as below:

Magic 8 Ball is pretty common in life. There is nothing special with a Magic 8 Ball. However, that is also the key point. Imagine that, when we send a Magic 8 Ball as a gift, she / he must think it is just a very simple and common Magic 8 Ball as usual. However, when she / he open it, she / he will find that the text in this Magic 8 Ball is not simple and common. It is designed by ourselves. This special Magic 8 Ball is custom designed. People can write and set any texts which they want to tell the girl / boy in this Magic 8 Ball, and then send it as a gift.

USER REACTIONS AND FEEDBACK
I let some shy people to test this project, and the result and feedback is as follows.

Most of the users who tested this project, most like the webcam based Interactive application. They think it is funny and interesting. Even though they are shy people, but they feel comfortable to use this interactive application, since they just see themselves in the screen and all they have to do is to wave their hands or bodies to touch the hearts on the screen. They think it is easy to do, and straight forward to express the emotion.

Some of the users like the Magic 8 Ball idea. They prefer to use texts which they really want to tell the girl or boy, to express their emotions. Because they think they have a lot of words want to tell her of him, rather than the simple sentence such as 'I love you', 'I miss you'. They agree with that if the girl or boy see the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball, she / he might feel surprised. They want to write their own texts by themselves, and put them in the Magic 8 Ball.

Most of the users think it is good to combine all this solutions together, that is, record the interactive video and then send the email, also, send the Magic 8 Ball as a gift.

FUTURE DIRECTION
There are many types of shy people, different types of them might have different preferences of how to express themselves, I have to consider different kinds of shy people's custom and make more ways of expression, to give them more choices to choose which pattern is most suit and comfortable for them.

Maybe I can extend this idea to a more widely used field, that is not only express love to the girl or boy they love, but also it could be a tool to express to anyone, such as Parents, friends, teachers, etc.

This project now is just help shy people to express themselves in another way, but it might not change their shy personality. I have to think more about how to use this kind of expression to improve shy people's confidence, and make them feel confident and comfortable to speak to people and express themselves directly, to help them become not shy anymore.

CONCLUSION
This project is aimed to make some interesting, cute, straight forward and interactive ways to help shy people express their real emotions to the people they love. I used Max/Msp/Jitter and Processing to make a webcam based interactive application, which could let people use their hands and bodies to touch and affect the movement of the 'hearts' on the screen and then generate different voices and music when bodies contact the 'hearts'. Shy people who tested this application feel comfortable to use it, and think it is interesting. Also, some people want to express themselves by the specific texts they write. So I came up with the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball plan. That is let the people write their own texts, which they want to tell the one they love, and put the texts in the Magic 8

Ball, then send it as a gift to the people they love. I made a official website for this project, which includes the introduction of the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball plan and the example video of the interactive application. Some shy people tested this project and feel comfortable to use the interactive application and the custom designed texts based Magic 8 Ball. The future direction of this project is to think about how to help shy people to become more confident and comfortable to express themselves directly, to help them become not shy anymore.

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