DIS/CONNECT

Maturitätsarbeit by Celia Salomons
Under the guidance of Monika Lürkens
KS Stadelhofen

IS THE INTERNET A NON-PLACE?

Anthropologist Marc Augé defines a place as a space where bonding and communication are encouraged. In his essay *Non-places: An Introduction to Supermodernity* (1992), he introduces the concept of the non-place: a functional and highly impersonal space of consumption or transit, such as a train station.

This project explores whether the internet can be considered a non-place. In the theoretical part, I concluded that the internet possesses traits of both the non-place and the place: while the internet provides opportunities for bonding, it can also create a sense of solitude as contact often remains virtual, limited by the screen.

My practical work consists of a series of four pieces, each portraying a different aspect of the internet as a non-place and our online experience. The internet is represented by a disassembled laptop, the components of which are incorporated in assemblage, digital art, painting and projection.

Practical work:

BREAK IN CASE OF EMERGENCY is about our insatiable need to be constantly connected.

Striving for separation depicts surveillance and the anonymity in being only one of many users (see detail, top right).

Track me! explores the privacy of user history (see detail, bottom right).

Glitch examines how we present ourselves online and whether our online persona influences our real identity.