

collective brain

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arts 130

Project proposal

The Collective Brain is an artwork that utilizes medical technology and the hypothetical process of 'mind uploading' in order to explore the capabilities of a very literal and tangible collective consciousness. The collective commons of this group mind are contained within and displayed via a projection of a large brain on the gallery wall. Viewers may both observe and interact with the artwork in order to better understand the effects of collaborative thinking and emerging technologies related to this topic.

Mind Uploading

- Mind uploading
 - a hypothetical process in which an individual's brain is mapped in great detail and transferred onto a computational device
- The artificial brain would have the same memories, thought processes, and general behavior of the original brain from which it was copied
 - Although it may not be a holistic incarnation (elements of human life and consciousness are undeniably absent), the simulated brain would nonetheless operate in a very similar way as its original version

Mapping the Brain

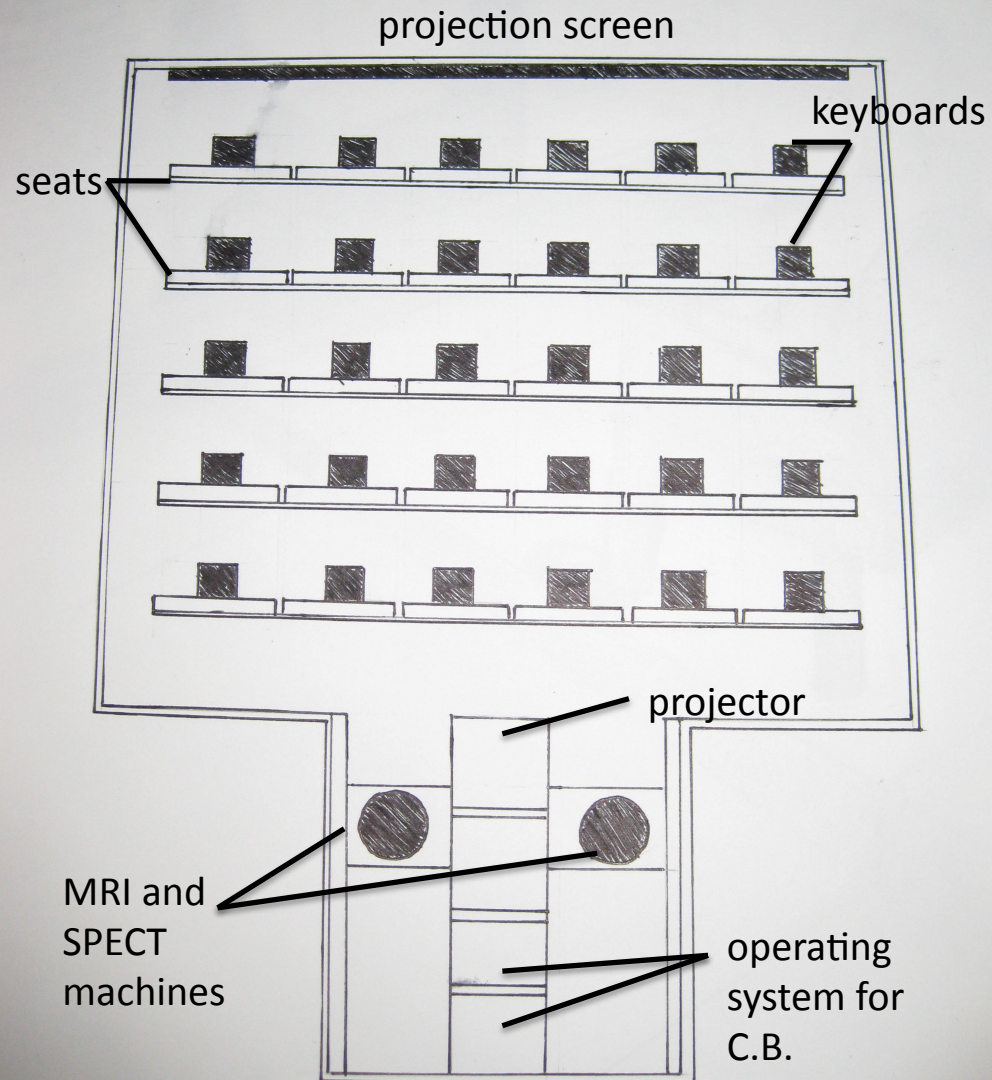
- In order to obtain a comprehensive and precise view of the brain, MRI and SPECT technologies will be utilized for this project
- MRI
 - Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 - A noninvasive procedure that produces detailed images of internal body structures, obtained by using a powerful magnetic field and radio frequency pulses

- SPECT
 - Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography
 - An imaging technique that uses gamma rays in order to create a 3D view of internal structures
- In combining the images produced by these scans, an artificial representation of the brain can be constructed within a computer

Visiting the Work

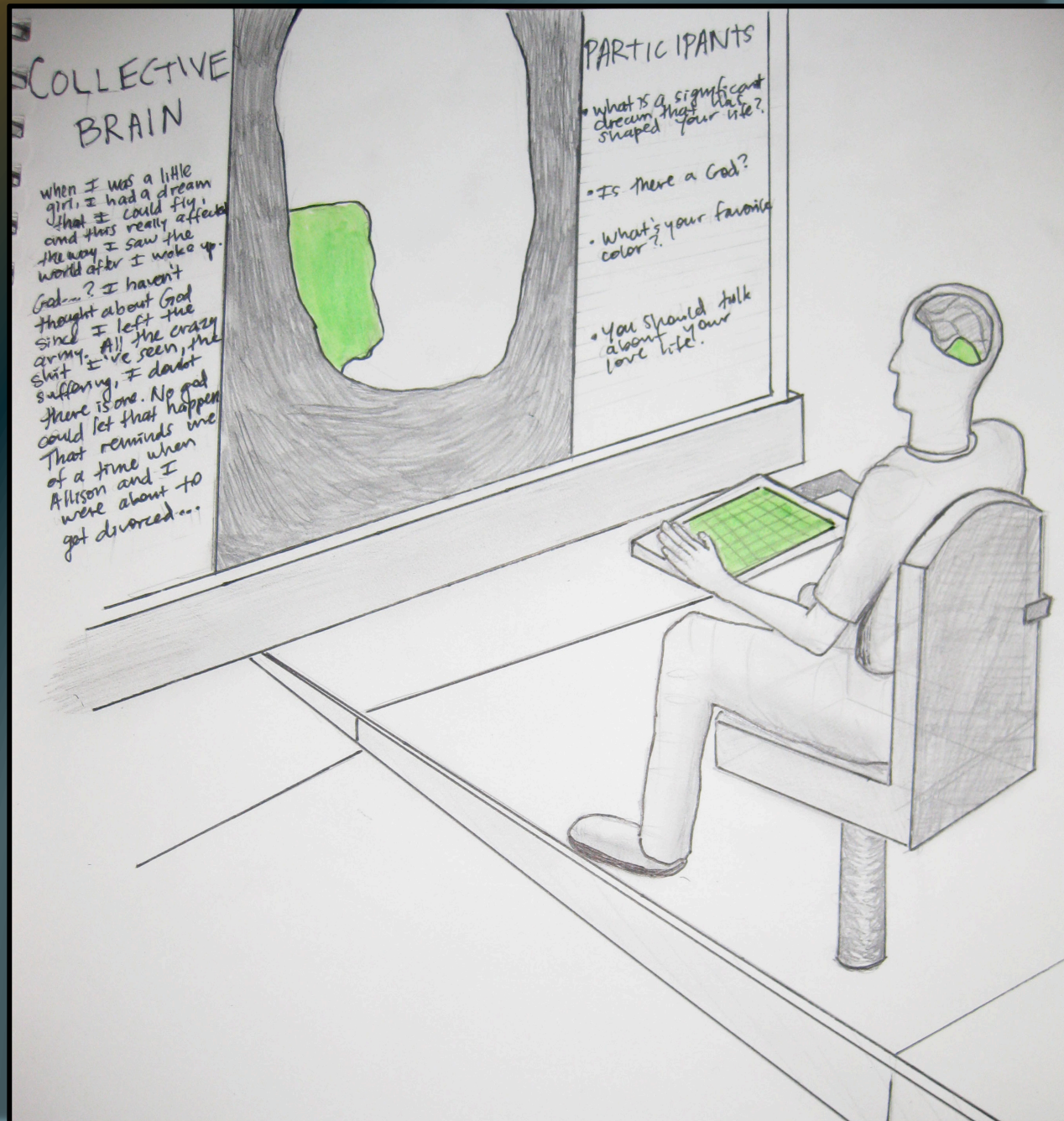
- Upon arriving at the gallery, visitors will have their brains scanned
 - A section of the scanned brain, which is randomly assigned, will be taken from each individual
 - All of these different sections will then be compiled into the larger Collective Brain
- The viewers will then walk into a movie theater-type setting, where they can watch and interact with the projection of the simulated collective consciousness

Layout of Gallery Space



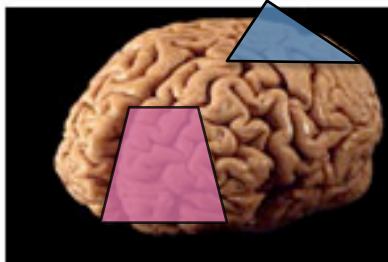
The Collective Brain

- Because visitors will be entering and exiting the gallery space intermittently, the makeup of the Collective Brain will be constantly changing
- With the changes in audience (and thus, changes in brain structure) one will be able to notice significant shifts in thought process and output from the C.B.
- Each viewer will be able to type statements or questions onto a keyboard that accompanies every seat within the gallery, which will be transmitted directly into the C.B.
 - These pieces of information will essentially exist as thoughts, which the C.B., being an autonomous thinker, can either acknowledge or ignore



Collective Brain

The C.B.'s thoughts are displayed on this side of the screen. They may continue to appear even if viewers are not participating.



Areas light up on the brain as they correspond to the answer that is being given – they also correspond to members in the audience, whose keyboards light up.

Participants

Statements freely appear on this side of screen as the audience members type them. C.B. either answers them or ignores them.



Effects of the Group Mind

- Shows vast effect each individual has on nature of group discourse
- Explicitly displays commonalities as well as contradictions manifested in thoughts of individuals
- Explores the relationship between mechanical and natural mind
- Examines the effects of a cohesive whole that is made up of distinct segments derived from autonomous individuals

Related Links

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_method
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupthink>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_effervescence
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Brain_Project
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_transplant

Sources

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_uploading\](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_uploading)
- http://www.miguel.com/transhumanism_nano/posthuman-extropian-uploading.html
- <http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=bodymr>
- <http://www.web-us.com/brain/aboutthebrain.htm>
- <http://www.getbodysmart.com/ap/nervoussystem/cns/brain/adultorganization/tutorial.html>