J. R Carpenter | A Handmade Web

- Handmade web refers to web pages coded by hand rather than by software
  - Maintained by individuals instead of big corporations
  - A form of art, presenting challenges to convention and produces individuality
- Correlation between handmade web pages and handmade print materials
  - Usually correlated with graphic design, like zines, pamphlets, and artists books
- Handmade pages contained in the online archive continue to exist in the medium in which they were created, but the frames through which we view them continue to change
- Design changes and aesthetics peel like wallpaper, peeling one behind to reveal the one before
  - Ghosts of browsers, websites addressed to people who are not us
- Not artifacts of a dead web but rather signposts on a map of living web pointing to a web that once was, a web in process, a web in the making
  - Ongoing engagement with making of web pages and web policies
- Use handmade web to call attention to manual labor in webpages and the functioning of web as itself as a manual
- Handheld devices have distanced us from the handmade web
  - Ipad works because users can't know how it works
  - Reading the web on an apple device, readers do not have the option of viewing the page source
- Becomes radical to hand code and self publish experimental web art and writing projects
  - Poetic and intransigent ways
  - Suggest slowness and smallness as a forms of resistance to the highly commercialized web

Journal Entry

After reading the article on the concept of the handmade web and what it means, I've concluded that my opinion on the internet and its websites has changed dramatically. Maybe not my opinion, but most definitely my perception. As stated in the last journal, I had never really thought of the internet outside of larger websites and large communities as places to host smaller profiles and interests. Looking at the web with a lens of individuality, I am able to see how we are all responsible for contributing and self publishing to keep the idea of the handmade web alive. The comparison from the handmade web to the handmade print materials usually associated with art really allowed me to see how the handmade web has significance and is a form of art. A website and its navigation is so similar to a zine and its pages. Both require crafted experiences and aesthetics. Something else I also liked was about how handmade sites or sites in general go through design changes, and those aesthetics and changes peel off the site like wallpaper, revealing the design of the page before. I like the aspect that even when deleted, websites on the internet can remain living either in memory or in code somewhere. I also had never thought that handheld devices could distance us from the handmade web, but it's very true, in the way we can't experience parts of the web or inspect the web on our mobile devices as opposed to computers or PCs. I also didn't really understand the concept of handmade web being radical until this article. The last readings mentioned it, and I had a rough

understanding, but the way this article framed the handmade web and hand coding/curating websites as a way to resist the highly commercialized web really hit it home for me. The more I learn about the bones of web design, the more I understand how it itself is such a beautiful and expressive art form.