

Screenshot of Joana Chicau live coding visuals in a web browser

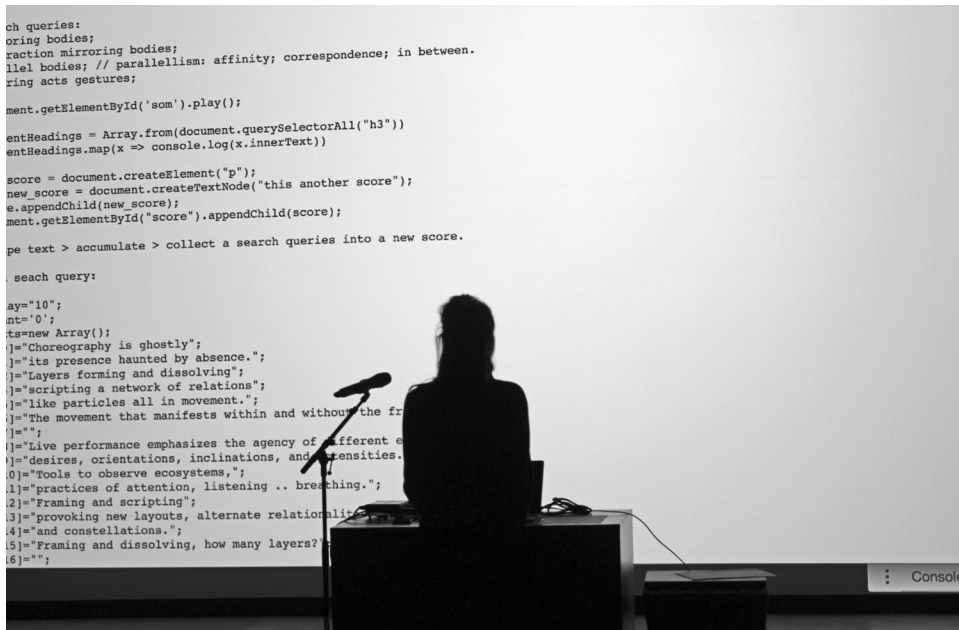


Photo by Marco de Swart

**Joana Chicau**

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In 2016 I started a transdisciplinary research project that interweaves web-programming tools and environments with performance and choreographic practices. Since then I have been investigating diverse notation systems from both dance and web programming, which I then merge into a hybrid form of algorithmic composition: a “choreo-graphic-code” that brings new meaning and produces a new imaginary around the act of coding.

Choreography in the context of this research project is seen as a writing or a metalinguistic space for thinking movement and countermovement in the (de)construction of web tools and digital media environments. The liveness of code writing became a way to activate the choreographic-code, exposing various processes and dynamics of web computing while enhancing the physicality of the body—the body that is in constant friction between the constative (reality describing) and performative (reality producing). Engaging with different forms of choreographic thinking has been a way to bridge and enhance the somatic and semantic within coding.

I believe improvisation is key in live coding practices in general, and within my performances I hope to take this notion both as a technical and physical condition and bind the procedural with the conceptual and corporeal layers of live coding.

My practice reflects on the intersection of the body with the constructed, designed, programmed environment. It aims at creating new alternative circuits within the technological sphere of programming languages and possible encounters with the sensorimotor structures that regulate our bodies and movements, hopefully contributing to a different mode of embodying live coding tools and systems of notation and of appropriating digital technologies.

Kate Sicchio has been one of my most important sources of inspiration. A few years ago while I was still writing my thesis, I was introduced to Kate by Alex McLean. Later we all met in person at the ICLC 2016! I still try to follow her work as closely as possible. Another important aspect of my practice is the use of coding languages and its performative instance to build diverse, inclusive, and plural discourses, as well as a site for nurturing collaborative and open work. Such critical thinking and activism on gender equality and inclusion have been brought to discussion within the community by Shelly Knotts and Joanne Armitage, among other feminist live coders. I feel very close to their thinking and have already engaged in public discussions with them.

As in most live coding practices, my system and methodology focus on the use of free/libre open-source models and are concerned with widening the ways in which digital media and computation are presented and made accessible to the public.

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