

Artist Statement

anaBlog is a zero-bandwidth electro-mechanical community Blog (weblog). It is a public, site-specific, interactive installation designed for the intersection of Hunter and George streets. Behaviourally mimicking the internet and physically structured around a clothesline, anaBlog is a playful examination of the web phenomenon of anonymously bearing ones soul in public virtual space.

The high cost of access to digital technology (computer, web connection, cell phone, PDA) often leaves online communities invisibly stratified by economic class. anaBlog in contrast revels in low tech; it is a no-bandwidth system designed to facilitate open dialog and community engagement.

Part confessional, part message board, part soapbox, anaBlog is a DIY network that stands at the intersections of private and public space, personal and community standards, revelation and surveillance, graffiti and communication, vandalism and intervention. The automated clothesline of anaBlog provides pedestrians in Peterborough's downtown core the opportunity to air their dirty laundry.

Since writing the above, anaBlog has been deemed a banner by the city. Bylaws regulating public communication limit the locations where banners can be hung -- Hunter and George is not on the approved list.

Notwithstanding the generosity of the people here at Dreams and Beans (I am truly grateful) this relocation is disappointing, not simply because anaBlog should be outside, but because outside should be all of our space.

anaBLog remains undeterred. It has been physically modified for its new location and is ready to present your voice to your community.

steve