Girls’ Online Self-Portraits

Who: Fifteen Taiwanese girls age 13-18

What: Self-portraits posted on popular social networking site www.Wretch.cc/album

How: Online interviews through IM; ethnographic observation of girls’ Wretch space

Theme: representation, production, consumption, networking, and boundary play.

Keywords: agency, ‘girl power’, self-subjectification, performativity, self-representation.

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• Why do girls put self-portraits online?
• What does it mean to be a ‘beautiful chick’ online?

RQs:
1. How teenage girls do (gender) identity work through self-portraiture?

2. What are the macro, meso, and micro forces, how girls negotiate them, and how does the online self-portraiture work limit or extend the possibilities of being and becoming a girl?

Of 2000 Teen’s Self-portraits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cool</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childlike</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td>Sexy</td>
<td>8%</td>
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25% Cool: 83% boys
30% Childlike: 70% girls
37% Mixed: 55% girls
8% Sexy: 55% girls

Every self-portrait has a life, a feeling.....that reminds me of my self and thought at that time.
— Cecilia, 16

[My tongue] just spontaneously sticks out...and [touching my head] is a habitual motion!!
— Bing, 14