

# ALL YOU NEED IS L.O.V.E.: INDIE COUPLES IN GAME DEVELOPMENT

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**INDEPENDENT GAMES**  
SUMMIT



**GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE™ EUROPE**  
CONGRESS-CENTRUM OST KOELNMESSE · COLOGNE, GERMANY  
AUGUST 11-13, 2014 · EXPO: AUGUST 11-12, 2014

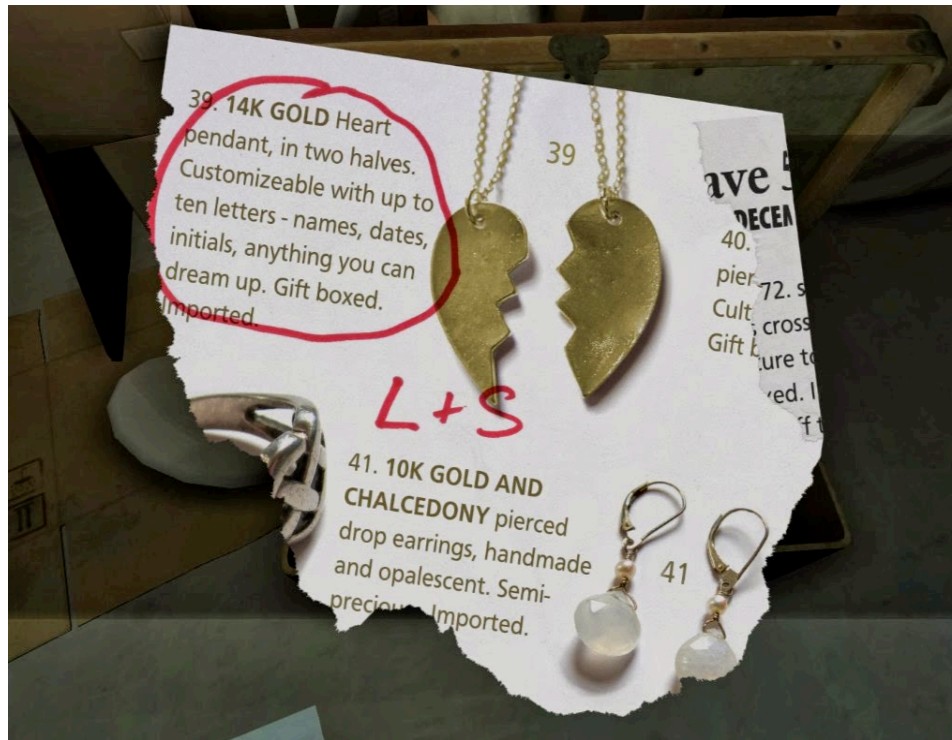


LET'S TALK ABOUT  
LOVE AND GAMES...

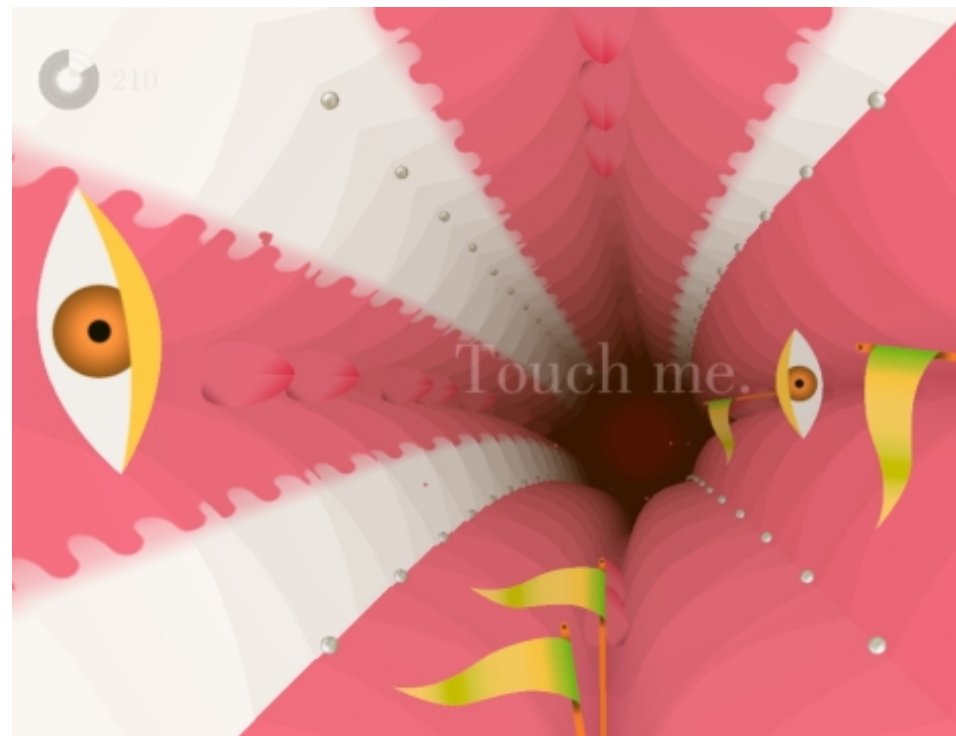




FROM MARIO TO SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS:  
KNIGHT-PRINCESS LOVE RELATIONSHIPS



FROM FINAL FANTASY TO GONE HOME:  
LOVE AS A DRIVER FOR STORYTELLING



## FROM FAÇADE TO LUXURIA SUPERBIA: LOVE AS GAMEPLAY MECHANICS





corridor

[Yumi]

"You weren't concentrating in class today."



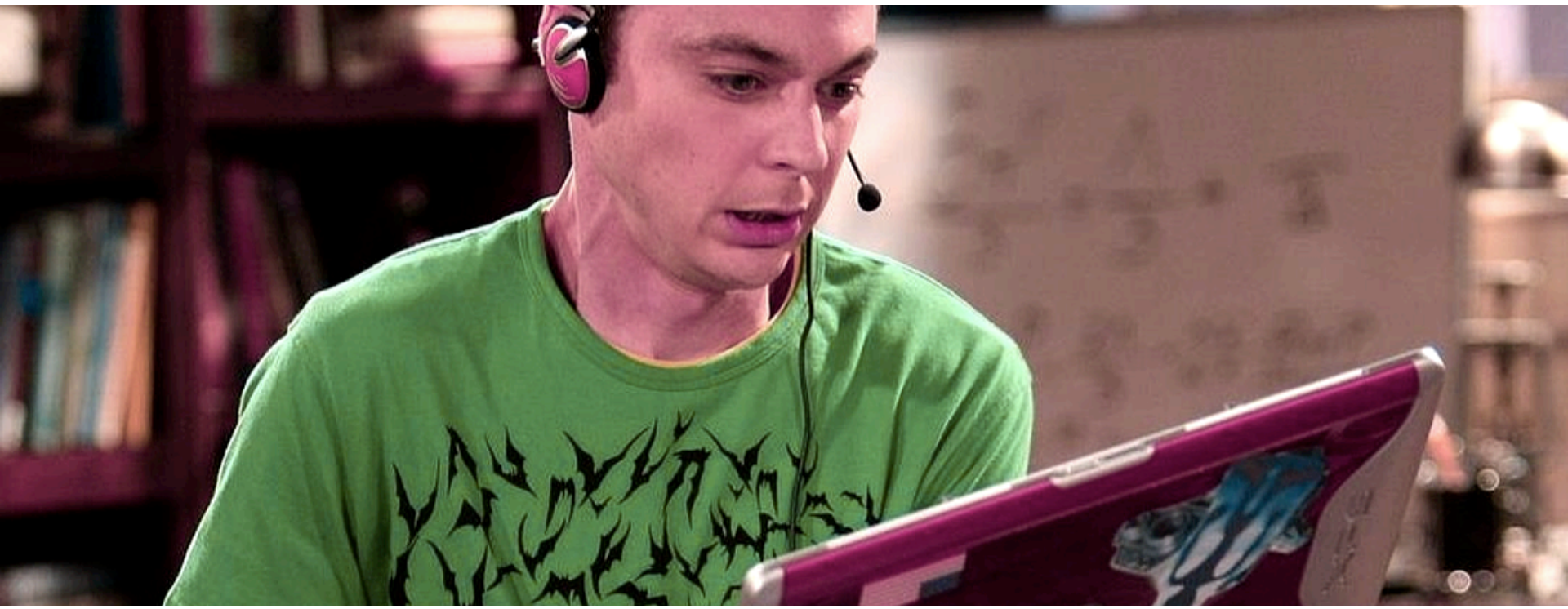
**\*Mute**

No wonder you were talking to Hyun-ae before, it's gotta be pretty lonely, being exiled to deep space like that, while doubtlessly some other girl's filling your husband's bed while we speak.

DATING SIMS AND VISUAL NOVELS:  
LOVE AS A GENRE

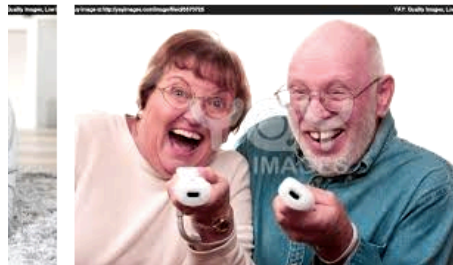
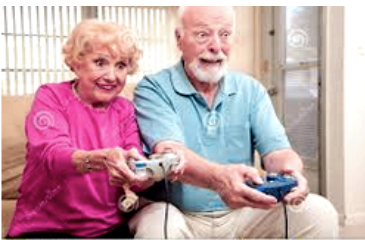


**BUT WHAT HAPPENS  
WHEN LOVE IS ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE SCREEN?**



MYTH: PEOPLE WHO PLAY GAMES LOVE ONLY GAMES





TRUTH: PEOPLE WHO PLAY GAMES  
LOVE ALSO OTHER THINGS (EVEN PEOPLE!)



AND THAT'S A TREND WHICH IS EVEN MORE DISRUPTIVE  
WITHIN THE INDIE COMMUNITY





SO LET'S TALK ABOUT  
LOVE AND MAKING GAMES...



NOT ONLY MAKING GAMES  
FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE...



... BUT ALSO MAKING GAMES  
WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE.



# INTRODUCING “INDIE COUPLES”: OUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



WAIT...YOU WORK TOGETHER  
AND YOU'RE A COUPLE?  
THAT MUST BE  
SOOO EXCITING!





# LOVE: CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL



## BEGINNER: ROMEO&JULIET

- > FIGHTING FAMILIES
- > DEATHLIKE SLEEP DRUG
- > 6M HIGH BALCONY



## INTERMEDIATE: JACK&ROSE

- > DIFFERENT CLASSES
- > SINKING SHIP
- > 200,000 TONS OF ICE



## ADVANCED: ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

- > HOSTILE GREEK GODS
- > HELL TO GO THROUGH
- > DISPUTABLE "DON'T  
LOOK BACK" RULE



## HYPER HEXAGONEST: INDIE COUPLE

- > BRAINSTORMING 24/7
- > NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN  
WORK AND PRIVATE LIFE
- > PAJAMAS AS WORK UNIFORM



**3.37 AM**

IT'S EASIER TO BE A JEKYLL & HYDE PART-TIME DEV  
WHEN YOU SHARE THE SAME BED



# INTRODUCING “INDIE COUPLES”: MORE AND MORE EXPERIENCES







COMMUNICATION  
MEANINGFULNESS TRUTH FORCE  
DIVERSITY BALANCE  
MOTIVATION ETHICS  
PERSPECTIVE HONESTY



# LOVE AND CREATIVITY: EXAMPLES FROM OTHER FIELDS

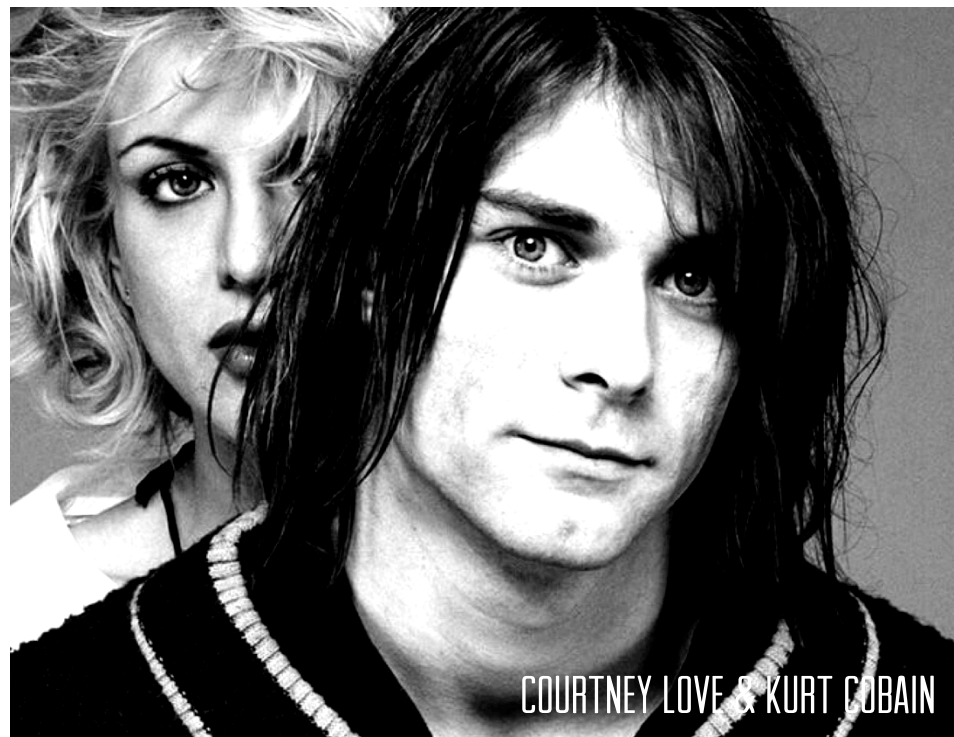
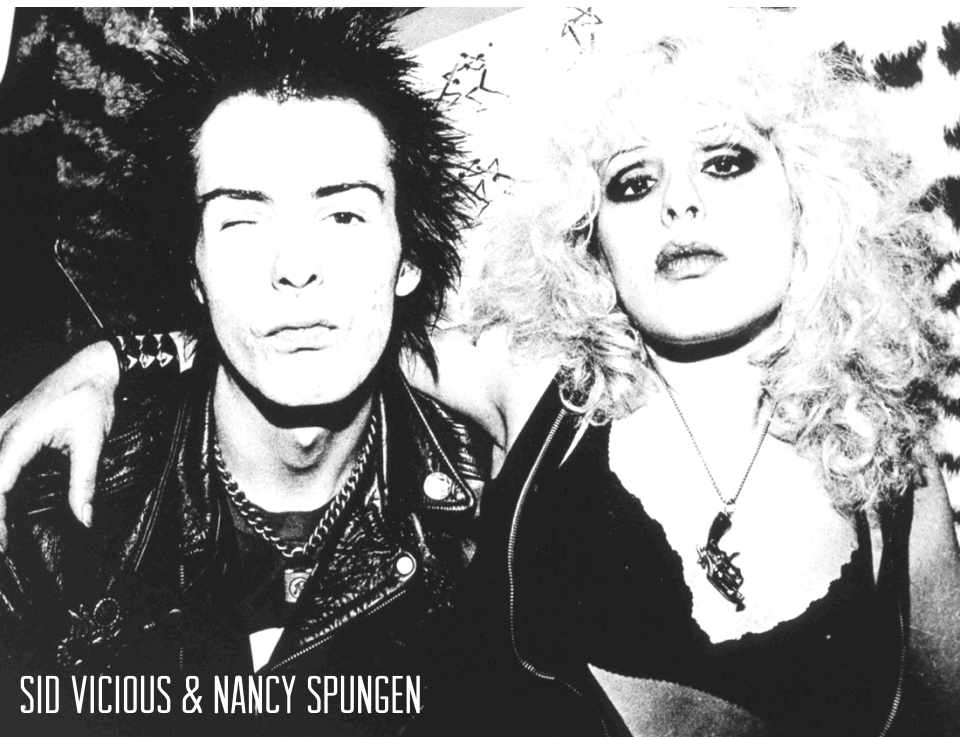


SALVADOR & GALA DALÍ



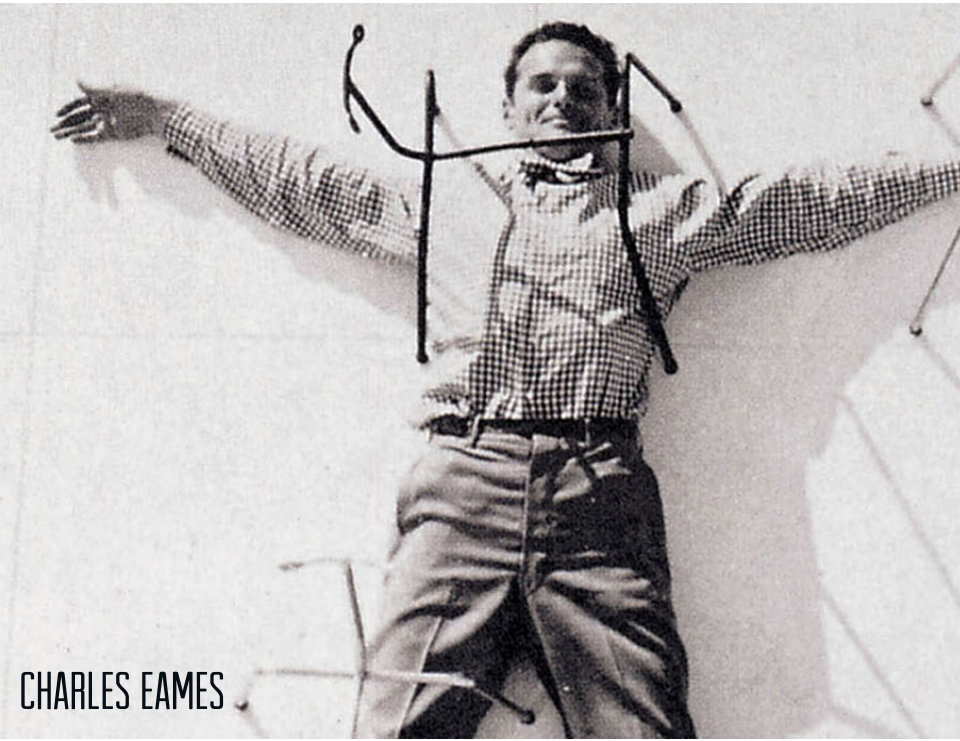
MAN RAY & KIKI DE MONTPARNASSE

## STEREOTYPE #1 THE ARTIST & THE MUSE

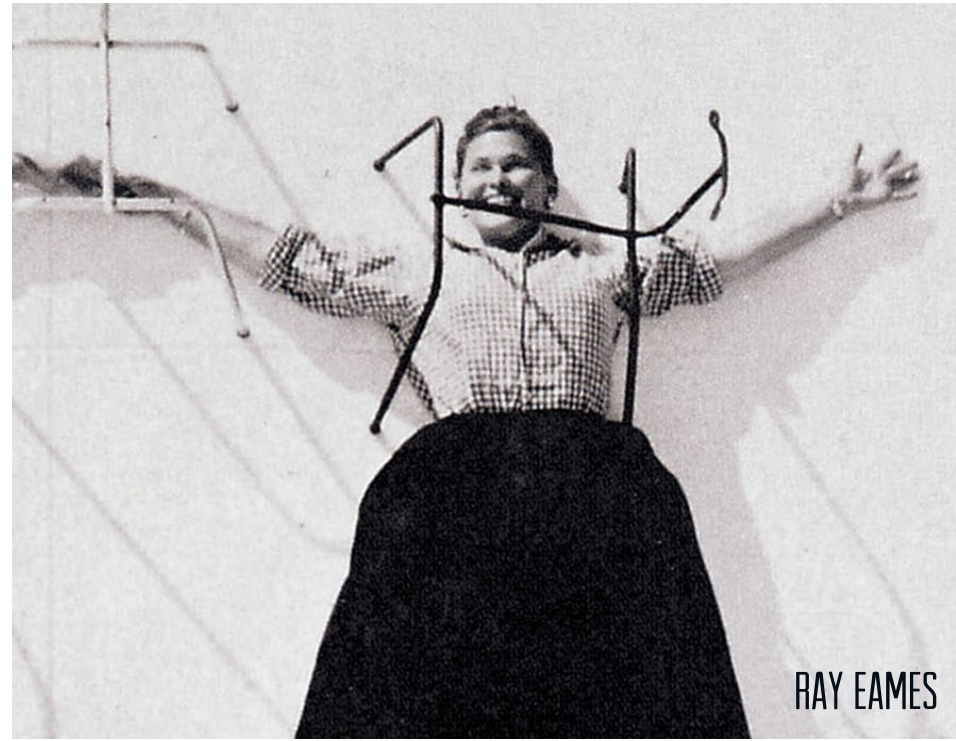


## STEREOTYPE #2 “BEAUTIFUL & DAMNED”





CHARLES EAMES



RAY EAMES

“DESIGN IS TO CONSCIOUSLY PUT TOGETHER TWO THINGS IN A WAY THAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THEY COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED INDIVIDUALLY”.



YOKO ONO



JOHN LENNON

COOPETITION (COOPERATION + COMPETITION):  
MUTUAL “INVASION” OF EACH OTHER’S EXPERTISE





MARINA ABRAMOVIC



ULAY

EXPERIMENTATION:  
RECKLESSLY TESTING EACH OTHER'S LIMITS



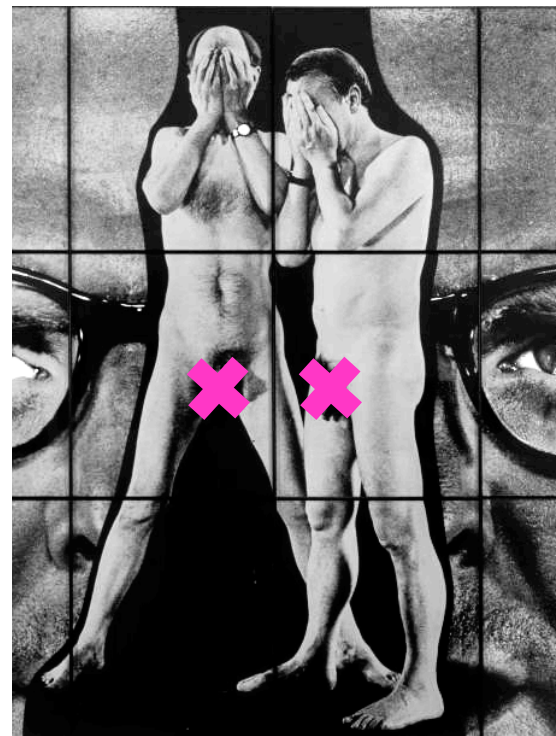
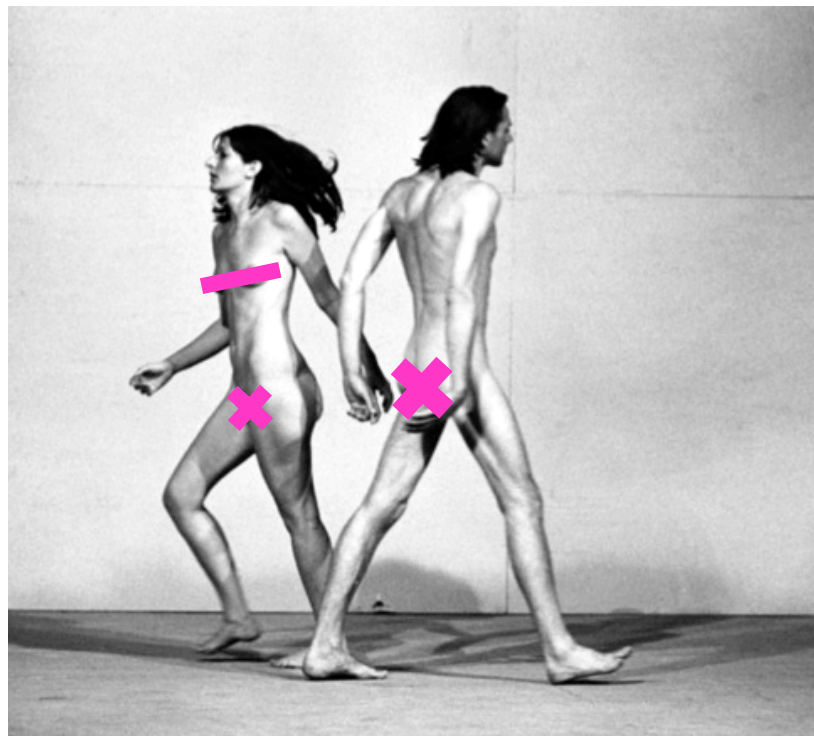


GEORGE

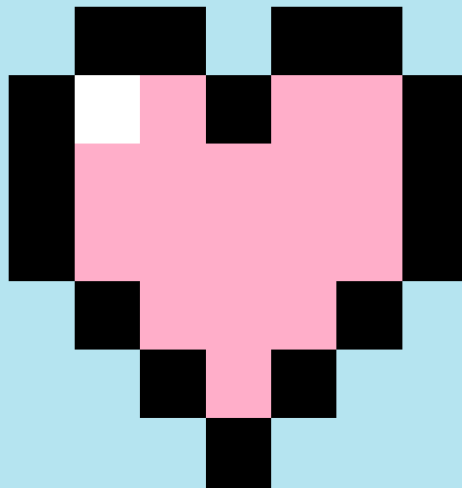


GILBERT

IDENTITY:  
THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS



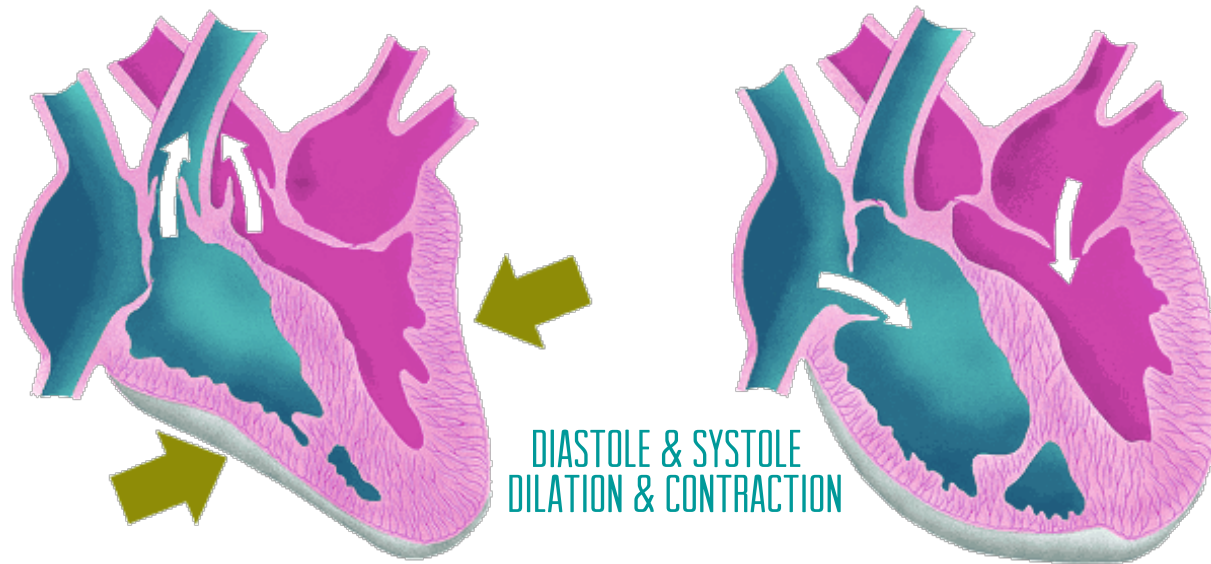
BEYOND STEREOTYPES:  
THE NAKED TRUTH



THERE'S A REASON WHY  
THIS IS THE SYMBOL FOR LOVE...



... BECAUSE IT'S A CYCLE.



CYCLING BETWEEN OPPOSITE PHASES IS KEY  
(IN LOVE AS IN GAME DEVELOPMENT)



# LANGUAGE





VS





# ORGANIZATION





SELF-  
ORGANIZATION

VS



ASSEMBLY  
LINE



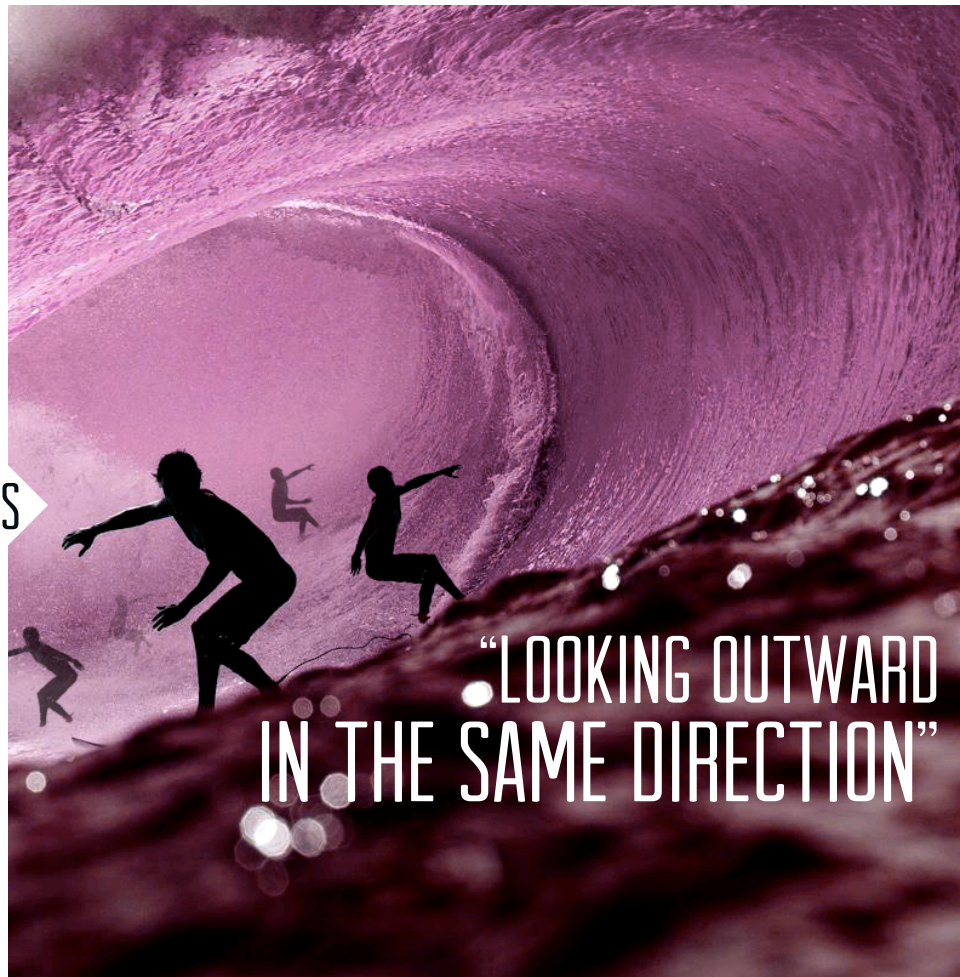
# VISION





“GAZING AT  
EACH OTHER”

VS



“LOOKING OUTWARD  
IN THE SAME DIRECTION”



# EVOLUTION





VS







**LANGUAGE.ORGANIZATION.VISION.EVOLUTION.**

**GAME DEVELOPMENT:  
ALL YOU NEED IS L.O.V.E.**



**“LOVE MAY FAIL,  
BUT COURTESY WILL PREVAIL”**

**KURT VONNEGUT JR.**



**THANKS  
FOR YOUR COURTESY**







# WE ARE MÜESLI




UNCONVENTIONAL STORYTELLING

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SLIDE 3 – SCREENSHOTS FROM SUPER MARIO BROS (NINTENDO, 1985) AND SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS (SONY, 2005)

SLIDE 4 – SCREENSHOTS FROM FINAL FANTASY X (SQUARE, 2001) AND GONE HOME (THE FULLBRIGHT COMPANY, 2013)

SLIDE 5 – SCREENSHOTS FROM FAÇADE (PROCEDURAL ARTS, 2005) AND LUXURIA SUPERBIA (TALE OF TALES, 2013)

SLIDE 6 – SCREENSHOTS FROM TRUE LOVE (CD BROS., 1995) AND ANALOGUE: A HATE STORY (CHRISTINE LOVE, 2012)

SLIDE 8 – IMAGE FROM “THE BIG BANG THEORY”: ODEALDISAGIO.WORDPRESS.COM/MOTIVAZIONI

SLIDE 9 – IMAGE FROM DREAMTEAM.COM

SLIDE 10 – IMAGE FROM BOUNDEN (GAME OVEN, 2014): PLAYBOUNDED.COM

SLIDE 12 – IMAGE FROM KNIGHT MAN (ROBERT FINK, 2013): PUENTELIBRE.MX/\_NOTAS/1507690

SLIDE 15 – IMAGE FROM “WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY”

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SLIDE 25 – IMAGE VIA THE BALLAD OF JOHN & YOKO ([HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=0BET6WKK5U4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BET6WKK5U4))

SLIDE 26 – IMAGE FROM MARINA ABRAMOVIC – THE ARTIST IS PRESENT

SLIDE 27 – IMAGE VIA [GALLERISTNY.COM/2012/04/GILBERT-AND-GEORGE-GIVING-AWAY-LONDON-PICTURES-CATALOGUES-SATURDAY/](http://galleristny.com/2012/04/gilbert-and-george-giving-away-london-pictures-catalogues-saturday/)

SLIDE 28 – LEFT IMAGE FROM JOHN LENNON – TWO VIRGINS / CENTER IMAGE FROM MARINA ABRAMOVIC AND ULAY – RELATION IN SPACE / RIGHT IMAGE FROM GILBERT & GEORGE – NAKED EYE

SLIDE 29 – IMAGE VIA [HTTP://YAYAYAYALA.DEVIANTART.COM/ART/PIXEL-HEART-13-321518657](http://yayayayala.deviantart.com/art/Pixel-Heart-13-321518657)

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