

## Memoires of a Testee : recorded recollections at Braintec

<b>Title</b>	Memoires of a Testee
<b>Subtitle</b>	recorded recollections at Braintec
<b>Lead-in / Abstract</b>	Braintec is an American technology company specialized in brain implants. On the website <i>Memoires of a Testee</i> – recorded recollections at Braintec, <b>Rosanne van Klaveren</b> and some other test subjects write diaries about their experiences in memory research. This way, Rosanne represents the oldest art of human history:

telling stories.

#### Participants and speakers

van Klaveren, Rosanne (NL)

#### Short biography of participants

Educations:  
1995-1999 - Artschool Arnhem, dept. Liberal Arts  
1999-2001 - MFA Post-St Joost Photography, Breda

Earlier Braintec exhibitions:

- Digital Exposure #3, Den Haag, Netherlands
- Madrettor Festival, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- GRIP, Vleeshal and Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem, Netherlands
- Avecom REAL, Museum voor Moderne Kunst and Gele Rijder, Arnhem, Netherlands
- FILE2003, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Ciberart, Bilbao, Spain

2002 - ISOC Award Internet and the Arts

2003 - Nomination International Media Art Award, ZKM, Karlsruhe

#### Full text

Braintec is an American technology company specialized in memory research. Rosanne van Klaveren is the first woman with a MESI-implant. On her site *Memoires of a Testee* – recorded recollections at Braintec, she and other imaginary visitors write down their experiences as test subjects. Every Friday Rosanne published the continuation of her stay at Braintec, together with the diary-fragments sent by the other participating test subjects. In this way an interactive story in serial form was created which could be read and also be influenced.

At the moment many artists are moving in between fact and fiction. What is for real and what is not? Personally I'm rather interested in the experience corresponding with this. When do we experience something as reality? And do we really experience a story so much differently as soon as we know it is fiction? I share the vision of **Roland Barthes**. "No culture on earth can survive without stories", he argued. "This juggling of facts from daily life is an essential part of identity of mankind." For ages human nature was in need of stories to survive in a reality which seemed too seriously. I wonder if we rather prefer a pseudo-reality above the truth.

Through films and books we form our opinion about ethical matters such as cloning and genetic manipulation. In general, culture and visual arts in particular, prepare us for what will happen in future. With Braintec I try to start discussions about the influence we have on our imaginary world. Furthermore I am in search for new, interactive ways of telling stories.

#### Related internet addresses

<http://www.humanupload.com>  
<http://www.braintec.info>  
<http://www.proefpersonen.nl>