

ACM SIGGRAPH SPARKS:

Net Art and Online Communities,
moderated by Melentie Pandilovski and Kathy Rae Huffman

**Reviewing VRML in pandemic times:
Rainforest Awakens, interactive telematic performances**

Tania Fraga (Atelier Tania Fraga, Sao Paulo, Brazil)

In the **'90s**, I created many artworks using VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language), a scripting language to create virtual reality worlds on the Internet. **At that period, transferring 1 MB of data on the Internet took much time. Therefore it was necessary to develop strategies to deal with this problem.** For this, I used many small nested files that would appear in steps. This allowed me to create some suspense keeping the users' attention during its download. And by applying Gestalt's law of perception, I used much fewer data while creating meaningful artworks.

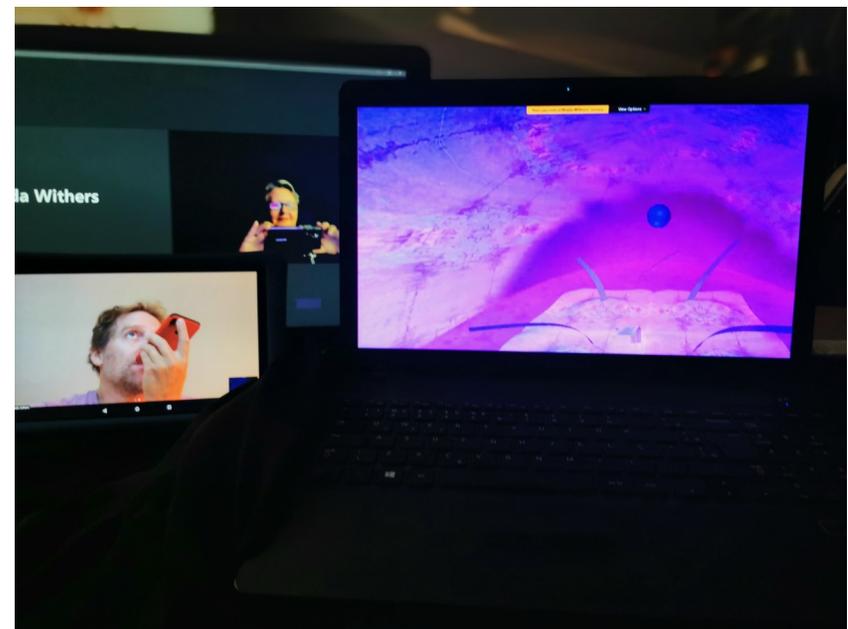
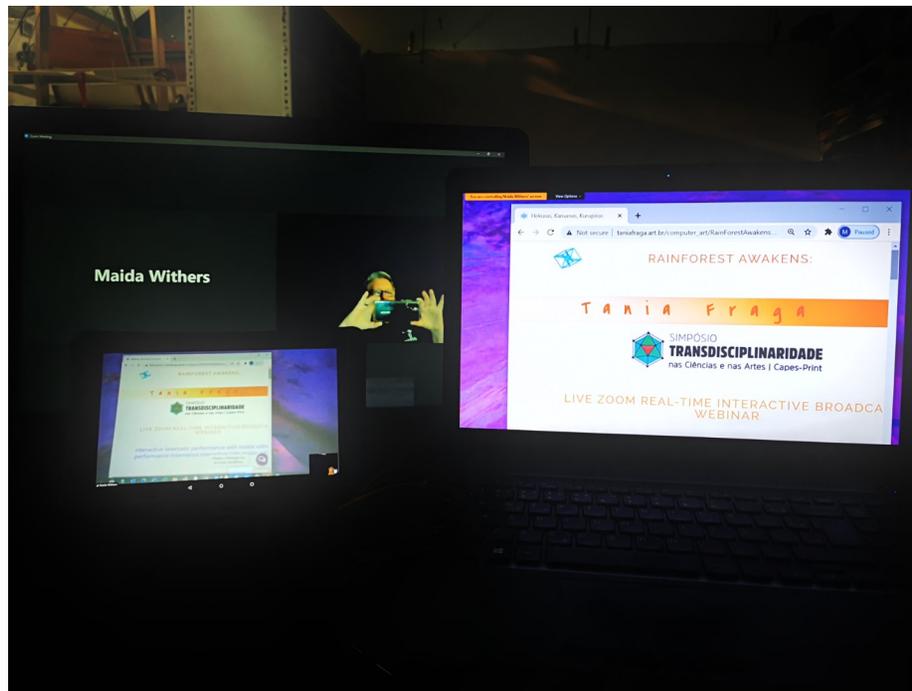


The poetic metaphorical VRML version of the Amazonian pink dolphin (Boto tucuxi)

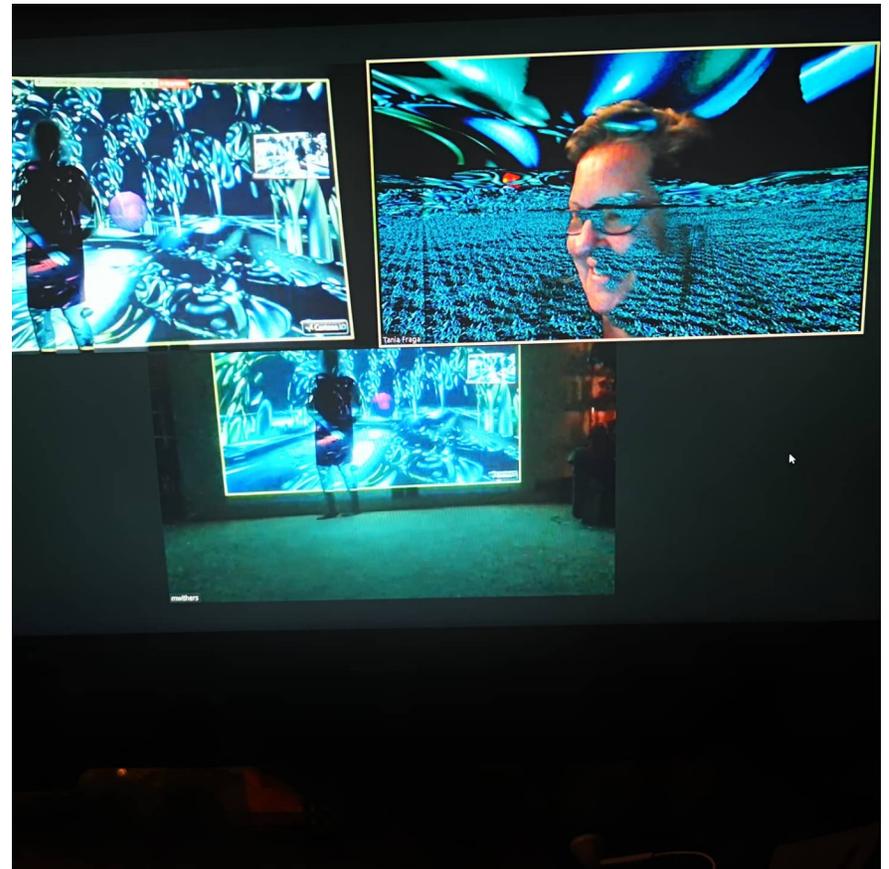
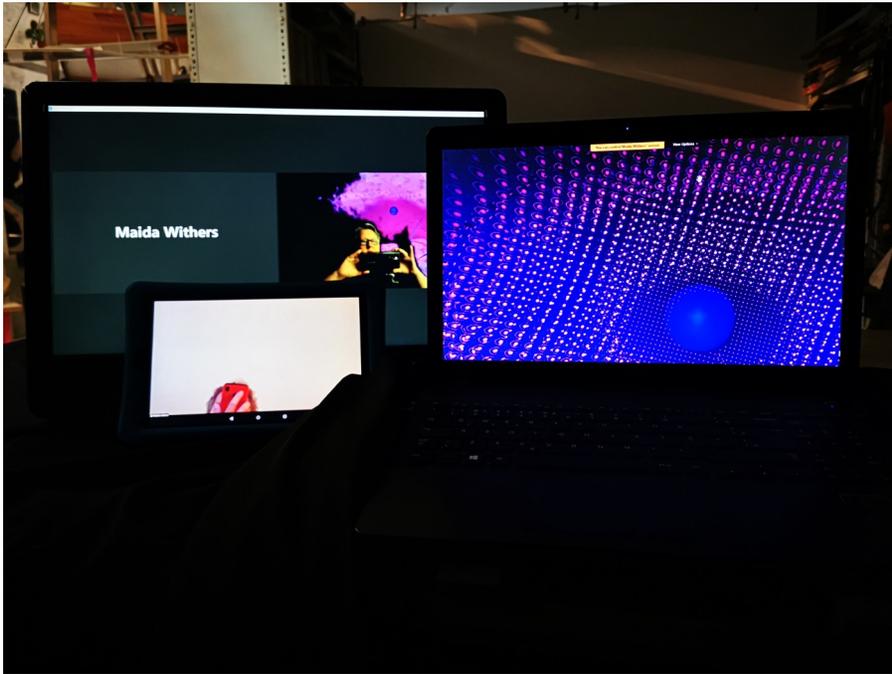
This strategy has proved handy while in a pandemic, when the data overflow has become a problem. With a long time partner, the American choreographer **Maida Withers**, we came up with the idea to review some of these old VRML virtual worlds to create a telematic interactive performance. **In 2020, many Brazilian forests were on fire.** We decided to use part of a visionary rainforest I made in VRML in 2001/2003. Thus, we created the real-time interactive performances **Rainforest Awakens** and **Rainforest Awakens II** with the musician and composer **Steve Hilmy**.

Therefore, we came together "**live and online**" **to explore beauty and pandemic crisis in a visionary metaphorical 3D Rainforest. Thus reinstating the urgent need to preserve such an unfathomable environment.**

Maida Withers, a noted American dance artist, performed inside my iridescent 3D virtual worlds in a sonic forest of sound created by **Steve Hilmy**.



- The set up in my studio (Sao Paulo, Brazil): 01 PC computer, 02 monitors, 01 cell phone, 01 tablet;
- The set up in Maida's living room (Arlington, VA): 01 PC computer, 01 Mackintosh computer, 01 cell phone, 01 projector, 01 sound system;
- The set up in Steve's living room (Florida, USA): 01 PC computer, 01 cell phone, sound system and sound devices.



A few glimpses

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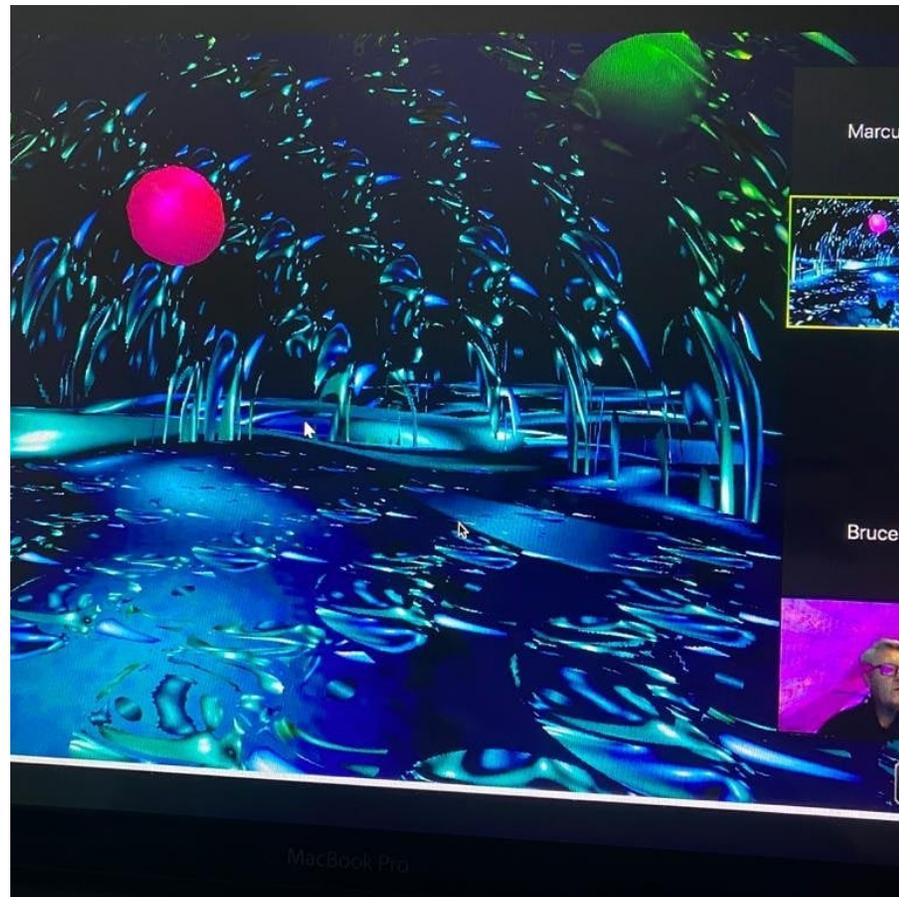
**Daqui a pouco, às 19h30 acontece
RAINFOREST AWAKENS
performance interativa
em tempo real**

[@maidawithers](#) [@taniafraga_stelle](#)

Maida Withers . Tania Fraga . Serve Hilmy



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These performances allowed us to review of an old net art project. They also subverted Zoom constrains to bring dynamic interactivity in a Zoom webinar to a home stage during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The live Zoom interactive broadcast webinars happened on August 13th (Artomatic Festival, Washington, DC) and October 21st (Trans-disciplinary Art Congress, Brazil), 2020. They can be seen at:

<https://vimeo.com/471183584#at=2>

<http://maidadance.com/works/rainforest-awakens/>

https://youtube.com/channel/UCw274rzHP9t7muJG9zAW_aw

http://taniafraga.art.br/computer_art/RainForestAwakens.html

Acknowledgments:

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Technical producer: Eric Withers

Curators: Maida Withers, Nara Cristina dos Santos, Tania Fraga

Thank you