



Welcome to you all ^_^ and welcome to this field trip in the Herman Bergson Museum. It may sound a bit odd, but it seems that I store my Second Life experiences in a museum.

When I came to Second Life one of my first activities was taking snapshots. I thought it would be a pity to forget all what is happening to someone here.

Bejiita Imako: ah, good idea

CB Axel: And so much of it is transient.

herman Bergson:

The second thing, that caught my attention was, that Second Life is about feelings and emotions. When you build something, the most rewarding is the feeling of a kind of pride, because of what you created.

When you meet people, feelings and emotions play of course a quintessential role and in those early days of my Second Life, now more than 8 years ago, I began to wonder.

The feelings and emotions are in the real me, but caused by a virtual world. I concluded, that it was in fact the same effect as watching a movie has on me, but now I am the main actor and spectator at the same time.



Unknowingly this idea must have been at work when I made my first picture, April 23 in 2010. The rational reason for it was, that I realized that Second Life has no directional light source, so.... no shadows.

That was, when I looked at this snapshot of me and a friend, who proudly showed me around in her new house. The shadows are missing. There is one solution: Photoshop.

Apparently the shadows were not enough. I happened to have a snapshot of looking from the outside at us in front of the window. I just love to cam around with my camera.

But that second snapshot became a picture on the wall in the house, as you see. And there it was: looking at your virtual surroundings and being looked at from the outside of the virtual world.

CB Axel: I really like that.

Bejiita Imako: yes

herman Bergson:

I gave the picture to the lady and in response she made one herself, which caused me to respond to that picture with a picture and then it showed to be so much fun and a creative way to play with my Second Life experiences, that I could not stop anymore.

The result is more than 300 pictures now and a lot of fun for me making them. And it is even more fun to see how everybody creates his or her own story reading my pictures.

Of course I don't reveal the true origin and meaning of the picture. On my Flickr page I even make it worse, which in itself is a lot of fun, by adding (suggestive) captions to the pictures.

Whatever story you read in a picture here, the origin is most of the time just a word, a remark, a pose, a situation, the appearance of someone or a mix of these ingredients.

Then it goes "click" in my head and the picture is virtually there. I only need two to three hours in Photoshop to fixate the feeling of that moment and add a context. Lovely job.....

Bejiita Imako: sounds nice for sure



herman Bergson:

And there we are, the both of us. Herman Bergson and that spectator in the picture. Once someone disrespectfully called him a vulgar voyeur. Not exactly the way I see myself in Real Life or in my pictures, but ok, you could interpret the character in the pictures like that.

You find this ME - ONLOOKER relation in most of the pictures. In some cases the spectator or onlooker is omitted, because his presence would spoil the picture or he doesn't fit in the story.

The pictures aren't meant to be art, but simply illustrations of my SLife and inworld fantasy. They intend to tell stories, stories that come up in the mind of the visitor here.

Sometimes it might be the story, I had in mind with a picture and sometimes it is completely your own story. So let me reveal a few of the true stories behind

my pictures. Thus you can see, if you could read my mind when you looked at it.

Tonito Alderson: Just looking at them on Flickr. Wow, what great shots!

herman Bergson:

Of course it is impossible to discuss every individual picture. There are too many, but I'll show you some and tell about their backgrounds.

Becky (rebecca.ransford): Great Models too :)

herman Bergson smiles

quaezar.agnomen : :)o

herman Bergson:

The picture behind me has a special place in the collection. It is near the entrance and underneath it you see some other examples with the same model. Let's look at another one now.

Bejiita Imako: 😊 yes

Tooyaa (thuja.hynes): yes very sensitive to context and also narrative



herman Bergson:

The idea here might be obvious.... some kind of situation of choice. But it is a typical Second Life choice. A friend of mine had an alt. So she was two in one. Then it is hard to chose ^_^



Especially when one of the two already had evoked warm feelings and a perspective on paradise. And as you see, no nosy onlooker here.



The cause of this picture was simple: her sexy dress. But it seems that here I had to protect myself, because the gates of hell seem to be in the background awaiting the sinner.

Catpower (catpower.daxter): hahah..

CB Axel: lol

Bejiita Imako: hehe ok

bergfrau Apfelbaum: lol

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): 😊

quaezar.agnomen: hahahaha

Bejiita Imako: 😊 lol

Stephen Xootfly: temptations come in many guises.

PhilNS Schumann: indeed .. almost opened

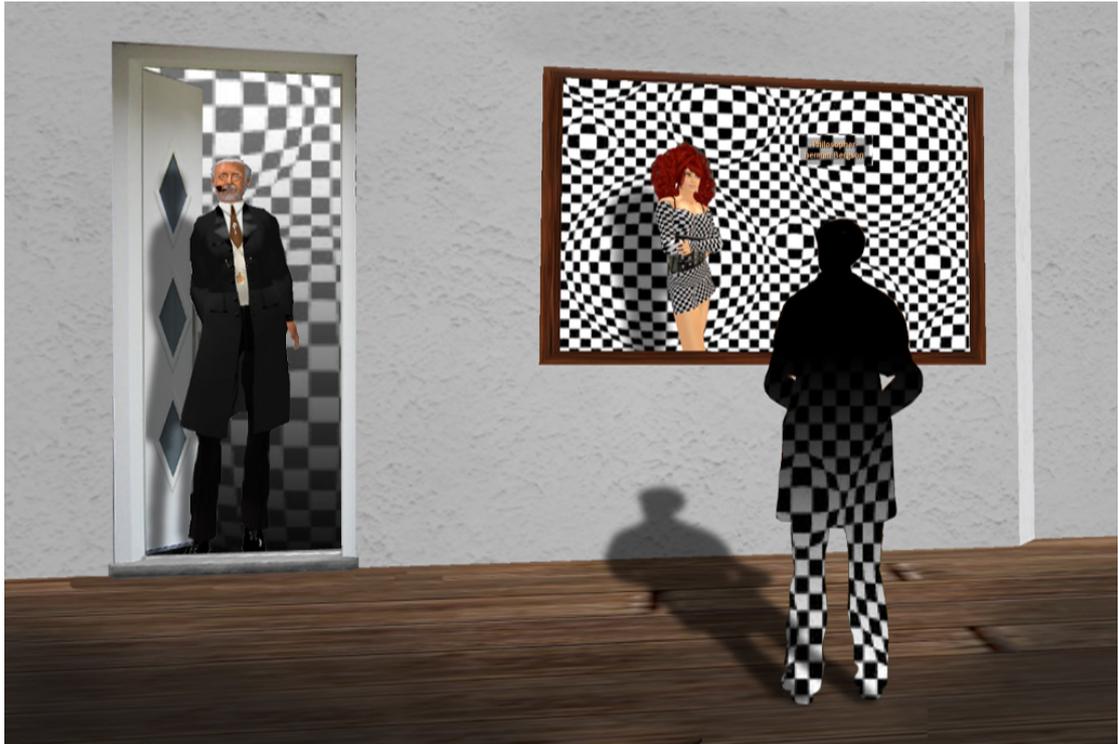
Catpower (catpower.daxter): good guy Herman.. :p



Again it was her dress, which inspired me, but also immediately caused a problem: whatever I tried to add to the picture...me...the onlooker...the result was ugly. Couldn't stand it.

Paolo Rousselot: nice composition tho

Bejiita Imako: hmm interesting



Therefore I solve my problem by making a second picture of her in that dress and as you see, the family is complete now. The Me and the Onlooker are there.

quaezar.agnomen: Superb :)

Bejiita Imako: YAY! (yay!) this was cool

Dawn Rhiannyr: great

Violet (ataraxia.azemus): Neat progression :)



My friend showed me an RL photo of her new dog.
Of course it became a context in one of my pictures.

Bejiita Imako: 😊

Dali Waverider: outstanding in their field.

Bejiita Imako: nice one

quaezar.agnomen: :))

CB Axel: hehehe



One of my passions in SL is playing golf with friends. When she puts, I might end up with a black eye as an onlooker.

Bejiita Imako: mm one of my fav obsessions, playing golf 😊

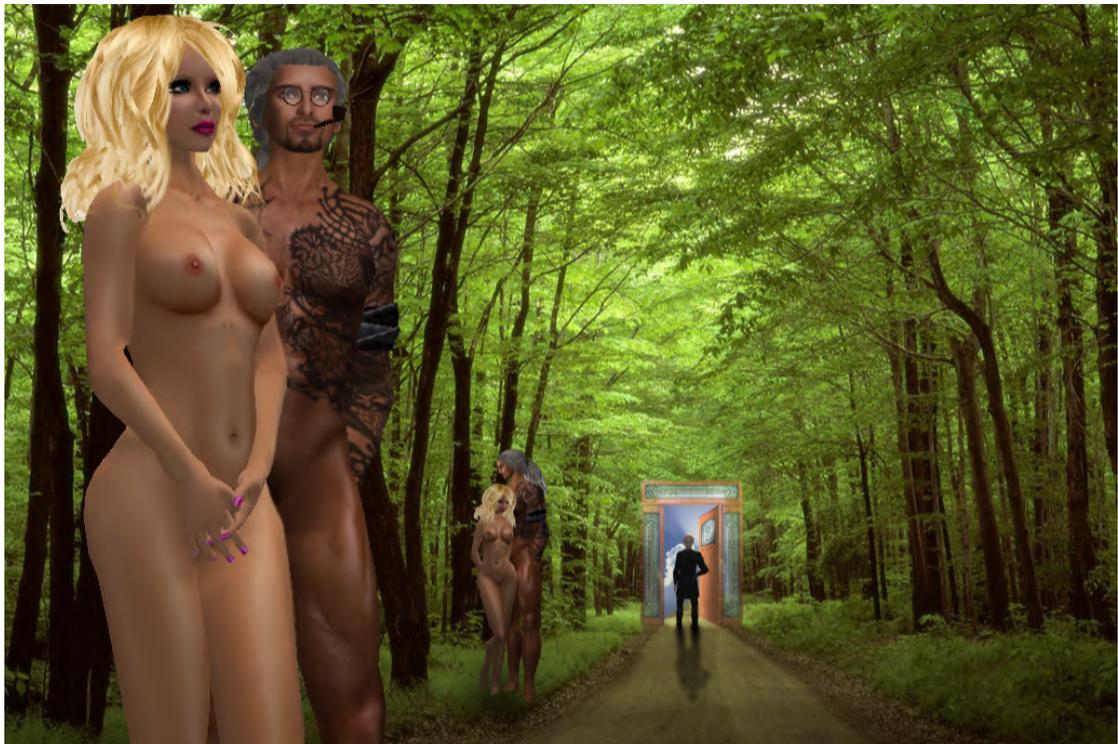
Stephen Xootfly likes the bowling.

Bejiita Imako: hehe Herman in the hole cup

Bejiita Imako: great one



The inspiration for this picture was a swimsuit. Of course there are many girls in swimsuits in SL. But seeing this girlfriend in a swimsuit was really special and not a common outfit for her. The next step is to find a context.



A lot of naked bodies! That must be a story. In fact it isn't. I met this lady in the museum and we had a nice conversation. She insisted on modeling for me.... and naked.

quaezar.agnomen: :o))))

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): :))))

Bejiita Imako: ok

Bejiita Imako: ☺

Paolo Rousselot: :) tough duty...

herman Bergson: yeah :)

Bejiita Imako: nice one

Becky (rebecca.ransford): I wouldn't do that

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): ☺

herman Bergson:

I am not so eager to work with a model. It is not inspiring. But she was a nice person and I gave in and did a photo shoot with her. Then I took some pictures of myself in another skin later.

In fact I alienated me from myself and as you see, the onlooker is not interested at all in the picture and is actually leaving.

Tooyaa (thuja.hynes): Magritte would be proud



Here in Nederland sim lives/lived a lady who has a series of avatars from child to granny. She loves to play these roles. One day I ran into this child in the museum and I said, "I don't think that these pictures are meant for children." :)

Then she challenged me to do a picture with her. Me and a little girl in a picture ??? This was the result and the interesting feature is that the onlooker is not me, but the child.

Bejiita Imako: ah

Paolo Rousselot: but you're both watching her

Αρετή (areyn.laurasia): to see the world through the eyes of a child..

herman Bergson: yes...it is the way you look at it :)



This picture was inspired by two things.
One was that I liked the poses of the two persons and the idea as if they are pondering about something.
The second was, that the lady had told me that she was a nurse in Real Life.

Bejiita Imako: ok

herman Bergson:

I made this picture on October 12. Twelve days later you could find me in this condition in Real Life hospital with a heart attack. On November 4 I got five bypasses and I am really doing fine again.

Bejiita Imako: hmm interesting picture

Bejiita Imako: ow

Dawn Rhiannyr: gosh

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): HI5 😊

CB Axel: Did you dream of SL while you were in hospital?

herman Bergson: I even had my iPad and could IM with friends :))



On October 8 I was home again and on the 9th I asked Chantal, who I congratulate with her RL birthday today, to do a photo shoot with me. I needed her for a picture....this picture. I surprised her with this picture named "Volume 2"; in other words herman Bergson version 2.0

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): 😊

CB Axel: :)

Rebecca (rebecca.rozen): lol send him a card :)

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): 😊

Dawn Rhiannyr: aw

Bejiita Imako: nice

Tulpa (jes.cobalt): 😊

quaezar.agnomen: :)

herman Bergson:

Behind every picture, which you see here there is such a story. A story to tell the visitor how inspiring a Second Life can be. So take your time and have a look around.



Here I intended to end my talk, if it weren't, that I have to halt for one moment at the memory of my dearest friend in Second Life: Pearl Moonlight. She passed away in RL last Wednesday (January 15, 2014).

Dawn Rhianny: oh no

Bejiita Imako: aaaaw

herman Bergson:

I think, that everybody here knows the impact of meeting your first girlfriend or boyfriend in SL. I made Friends with Pearl on Wednesday April 5 in 2006, more than 7 years ago.

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): "(

Bejiita Imako: thats sad :(

CB Axel: Aww. So sad. I've been hearing of a lot of that lately.

Paolo Rousselot: sorry to hear that...

herman Bergson:

My avatar was hardly 5 months old then. I even did not have grey hair then :) We both were noobs, tho Pearl was a three months "older". In real life we were about of the same age.



In this picture something peculiar has happened: not I am, but Pearl is a kind of spectator here. My first Philosophy Class project and my first girlfriend in one picture. Philosophy and Pearl have one thing in common here: they both are my first love.



After several years dancing together Pearl moved on to Wild West role-play. She lived an adventurous life in which I now and then took part..

Paolo Rousselot: :)
Bejiita Imako: ah, I see
Paolo Rousselot: amazing how SL can do that...
Tooyaa (thuja.hynes): philophilo
Bejiita Imako: yes
Dali Waverider: sweet.



Last night I attended the memorial service of Pearl Moonlight, aka Quiet Waters and there I felt confronted again with my basic question and my visualization of the question about the relation between our feelings and emotions in Second Life and Real Life.

The persons in this picture are Mark Coffee, her RL husband, ToledoDom Dastardly, her SL husband and me on horseback.

Paolo Rousselot: is there a difference?
Dawn Rhiannyr: good question
herman Bergson: Not really
Bejiita Imako: indeed
Paolo Rousselot: I don't think so
PhiNS Schumann: indeed. heard of second life but not of second emotions
Tooyaa (thuja.hynes): some may be more exhibited in one realm than another

herman Bergson:

This concludes my talk. Pictures and memories keep those alive for us, who we have to let go. if you have a question about some picture, don't hesitate to ask. I even might answer your question :)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/herman_bergson/



PhiINS Schumann: Herman . you're such a special person ! and the emotions you liked to share with us , are special the same.

Rebecca (rebecca.rozen): bows

herman Bergson: But I must admit...I already was a surrealist painter in RL

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): It shows 😊

CB Axel: I like the idea of being an observer of your own life.

Violet (ataraxia.azemus): That makes sense.

Dali Waverider: a confession!

CB Axel: Or at least your second life.



herman Bergson: If you are done looking around and have no questions anymore...next door is a band playing just around the corner

Bejiita Imako: ok

Tulpa (jes.cobalt): 😊

herman Bergson: The idea just happened CD

Stephen Xootfly: I think I'll check out more of the pictures. Wonderful gallery.

Bejiita Imako: now this was inspiring, keep it up Herman 😊

Dali Waverider: Thanks so much!

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): YAY for Herman 😊

Tonito Alderson: Thanks, Herman

herman Bergson: My pleasure ^_^

Chantal (nymf.hathaway): Inspiring! 😊

PhilNS Schumann: Inspiring Herman ! in many ways.

Rebecca (rebecca.rozen): get the book in the lobby :)

herman Bergson: Feel free to look around and ask questions :))

Dawn Rhiannyr: yes so true

Tulpa (jes.cobalt): Awesome 😊

Dawn Rhiannyr: this gallery gives Second Life a meaning :)