

# Farinity's Journal

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As last of today's trip I visited the Magic Space. It's a world where people can play games in the virtual world. I saw one of my friends there: RumarioMusic. He was playing a game. I looked around and saw some people playing games, some people watching others playing, and some people talking. I saw a group of people playing a game. They were having a lot of fun. I asked them what game they were playing, and they told me it was a game called Virtual Cars. I asked them how it worked, and they told me that you can drive around in a virtual car and race against other people. I was really surprised, because I thought it would be more like a driving game in the real world.

I talked with RumarioMusic about virtual sports. He said I likes to experience a game from the game's world within and that just watching games is boring. I agree. There are some games where it's more fun to watch than to play, but I think it's more fun to play the game yourself. You can really get into the game and experience it. I asked him if he had ever tried virtual sports, and he said he had, but he didn't like it. He said it was too realistic and he didn't like the feeling of moving too much.

I also met a new friend: Dreanna. She was also playing a game. I asked her what game she was playing, and she told me it was a game called Space Station. I asked her how it worked, and she told me that you can build a space station and live on it. We talked about the next generation of headsets. She said she was looking forward to the next generation of headsets, because they will be more realistic, and she will be able to experience the virtual world in a more realistic way. I agreed with her, and we talked about how the virtual world will be different in the future. We talked about how the pandemics have changed the world and how the virtual world has become more popular because of it. We talked about how the virtual world will continue to grow and how it will change the world. Both of them spend a lot of time in their headsets. And they told me about the new things they had experienced in the virtual world.



RumarioMusic and Dreanna on a space station in space

I went to a place called Bassline Beach by DDVR. It's a place where people can go to the beach and listen to music in the virtual world. I looked around and saw some people listening to music, some people swimming, and some people dancing. I saw a group of people swimming in the pool.

The creator of the world, DDVR, describes it as a fun and tropical environment with a pool, beach, music, stage, and cocktails!a. This is a completely custom-built world that will be hosting exclusive and totally immersive virtual reality events, parties, raves with no limits, playing strictly the best in underground music. Apart from our live events where you can meet and chat with people from around the world while listening to quality underground music, there are also lots of other things to find and do while you are there too, simply check the notice board for more details when you arrive. Looking for a place to stay? We have you covered, there are plenty of safe and secure places to stay, from chill-out areas to dance floors, there is something for everyone. You can also explore the world and find hidden treasures or take part in one of the many challenges that are on offer. So, what are you waiting for, come and join us for the ultimate virtual reality experience.

There was a beach with water and drinks. I found it immediately. It was really pretty, and I stayed there for a while. There was a pool and you could listen to music and dance on the stage. The environment was really tropical with palm trees and a lot of green. I had some cocktails at the bar. I wished I could go to a bar in real life with real drinks. That would be amazing because I love cocktails. The atmosphere of the world was amazing. The sun was shining, I could hear birds singing and the sound of the sea. It was really relaxing. Sometimes I wish I could live in a world like this, where there are no problems, and you can just have fun all the time. I was enjoying my time at the beach, but eventually I had to go and explore some other places in the virtual world.



Beach, sea, palm trees, rocks and mountains



Farinity in a pool with a cocktail in her hand

I went to a place called Adventure World. It's a place where people can go on adventures in the virtual world. I didn't see any of my friends there, so I didn't make any new friends. I looked around and saw some people going on adventures, some people fighting monsters, and some people exploring. I didn't do anything, because I don't like adventures, but I thought it was interesting to see how people are using the virtual world to have fun. I saw a group of people fighting a monster. They were doing really well, and I was impressed. I asked them how they did it, and they told me that they had been practicing for a long time. I asked them how long it took them to get good, and they told me it took them about a year. I was really surprised, because I thought it would take longer. I thanked them for their time and went on my way.



A rock shaped like an owl

The creator of the world, VRDarrenG, describes it as explore, and find hidden places in this world. There was a hidden beach. I found it after a while of exploring. It was really pretty, and I stayed there for a while. There was a rock shaped like an owl and beautiful jellyfish underneath the water. I climbed all the way up to a deserted house. It was so quiet and peaceful there. There were some islands floating in the sky and you could find a way up ending in a maze above the island. There was an impressive view.



Farinity floating above islands in the sky

I was really happy to have found out about this place and I'm definitely going to visit it again.



The shop BlackSandz Travel in the Mall of the Metaverse

I went to a place called Mall of the Metaverse. It's a place where people can buy and sell things in the virtual world. I didn't see any of my friends there, so I didn't make any new friends. I looked around and saw some people selling art, some selling clothes, and some selling virtual spaces. I didn't buy anything, but I thought it was interesting to see how people are using the virtual world to make money.

I saw a travelling agency offering virtual travels called BlackSandz Travel. You can visit different places in the world without leaving your home. I thought that was really cool and I might try it sometime. I was intrigued by their offer, so I decided to ask them about it.

They told me that they offer virtual travel experiences to people who want to visit different places in the virtual world. They showed me some of the places they offer, and I was really impressed. I've never seen anything like it before. I asked them how much it would cost to visit one of these places, and they told me it would cost about 100 Dollar. I thought that was a bit expensive, but then I remembered that in the physical world, travel can cost a lot of money too. I thanked them for their time and went on my way. I was really happy to have found out about this place and I'm definitely going to visit it again.

I tried on some virtual accessories and found a pair of sunglasses I really liked. I didn't buy them, because I don't need them, and I don't have any money in the virtual world. I didn't talk to anyone there, so I don't know what topics they talked about. But I think people must have talked about the things they were selling, or about the virtual world in general. I left the mall after a while and went to explore some other places in the virtual world. I didn't come back.



Farinity wearing a new pair of sunglasses

Today, I decided to go and explore some other places in the virtual world. I went to a place called Hogwarts. It's a world based on the Harry Potter books. I looked around and saw some people reading the books, some people exploring the castle, and some people talking. I didn't talk to anyone there. But I thought it was really cool to see how people are using the virtual world to create their own worlds based on books.

I saw a group of people exploring the castle. They were having a lot of fun. I wandered around the hallways and went to the magic staircase with the moving stairs and all the old paintings of wizards and witches. I sat down on the stairs and just looked at all the paintings. They were really impressive. I read somewhere that you can actually talk to some of the paintings, but I didn't try it. Maybe next time.

I went to the wooden bridge and had a view over the black lake. Then I went back to the entrance hall and looked at the golden statue of the architect of the castle. Visiting this place was magical because I read the books as a child. And it was really cool to see how the virtual world can bring those stories to life.



Farinity in front of many paintings



A group of avatars standing in front of the planet Earth



Two big, red planets and some stars

After our trip, I visited a friend's world which is based on our solar system. There you can look at the star constellations, visit our planets and moons or look inside them, see the death of our sun, and go on a journey beyond the solar system to distant stars and the biggest black hole in the known universe.

My friend, Niko, is a very passionate creator and he takes great pride in presenting an accurate representation of our solar system. He uses shaders to make the planets and moons look realistic and he has even made a red giant sun. I was really impressed by his work. I asked him how long it took him to make it, and he told me it took him about a year. I was really surprised because I thought it would take longer. I also met a new friend: RumarioMusic. He was also exploring the world. I asked him what he thought of it, and he told me he thought it was really cool.

We talked about the solar system and how the planets and moons are arranged. We talked about the sun and how it will die one day. We talked about Saturn and how it has rings around it. We talked about the black hole and how it is the biggest thing in the universe. We talked about Earth and how it is the only planet with life. We talked about the moon and how it orbits around Earth. We talked about how we are learning about the solar system in school. We

talked about how the solar system is a really big place and there is still so much to learn.

In reality you don't see any stars anymore, because the sky is no longer clear. But here you can see them again and it's really beautiful. You can see all the constellations like The Big Dipper, Orion, and The Southern Cross. You can see all the planets and moons in their orbits. You can see the sun rise and set on different planets. You can see the stars twinkle. It's really amazing.

Covid-19 – 2021-02-11\_19-16



Farinity standing behind a ball and a syringe

This evening, we went to Covid-19. It's a world where people can learn about the pandemic and how to protect themselves. I saw some of my friends there: FinnBO, Thomas (Mr. Blue), Niko, chriswattz, and Jens - FPGA. We talked about the pandemic and how it has affected the world. We talked about how to protect yourself from the virus, and we talked about the vaccine. We also talked about how to stay healthy during a pandemic.

I was really impressed by their knowledge of the topic. I learned a lot from them, and I am now more aware of what people need to do to protect themselves from the virus. I am also more aware of the importance of the vaccine.

I also bought a mask from FinnBO. It's a really nice mask, and it will help me protect myself from the virus. I could experience how the real world felt like when the pandemic started. It was really scary, but I am glad that I am now more aware of the situation during those days. After our discussion, we decided to go and explore some other places in the virtual world. I didn't come back yet.



Thomas (Mr. Blue), Farinity and FinnBO wearing masks

Tonight, I entered the metaverse quite late to visit a magic show. As I expected the show was held in a big stage, with a lot of people around. The magician started their show with some really simple but still impressive tricks like pulling a coin out of your ear or making an origami animal appear from nowhere. After that, they started to do more complex tricks like conjuring performance and mind tricks. I was really amazed by their performance, and I almost forgot to take pictures or videos.

The most exciting part was when they asked for volunteers from the audience. I raised my hand and was asked to enter the stage with two others. We stood on a giant clock and had to move to specific numerals. After 10 seconds the clock started to spin really fast, and it was disorienting. I tried my best to hold on but eventually got dizzy and fell. But luckily, I woke up in my virtual world couch at home, so no harm done ;)

I quickly returned to the event. After they clock performance, the show continued with the magician showing us some more amazing tricks, while we were trying to guess how they did it. The magician ended their show by making a big portal appear and they walked through it. As soon as they were gone, people started to leave as well. I decided to stay for a bit longer and talk with some other people about the show. Some people were really impressed by their performance, others found it too long or even boring. But overall, I think everyone had a good time and most applauded for their skills. It was a great show and I'm really looking forward to the next one.



The entrance of the magic show



The stage, the big clock, the magicians and the audience

Burning Man - 2020-09-10\_19-52



Sunny Fishman, Farinity, bkrawitz, chriswattz and VRau\_Media standing next to each other on a field

Today I visited a new world called Burning Man together with three friends. I made a new friend: bkrawitz. He built the world and showed us his artworks, he created inside the world. We went on a tour and flew to the top of his work. He told us about the time, when festivals happened in the physical world, and you could meet people in person. He told us he created the floating lanterns in remembrance of his dad.

bkrawitz said that the festival used to be a great experience and that he liked going there. I was really moved by his story. I couldn't stop thinking about the idea of such a festival, and I was really

impressed by the fact that I could see that kind of world. I asked if anyone could imagine visiting physical places, travelling long hours to get there and meeting people you don't know face to face.

The festival is held in an empty desert, there is a small town with a few shops, there is a small stage with a band playing music, the audience is dancing and singing to the music. In the afternoon there was a sand art competition, the audience is watching the competition and taking pictures. At night the bonfire is lit, people are singing songs together. People are sitting around the bonfire, telling stories, and sharing their experiences.

Sunny Fishman asked if the physical event was similar to this one and bkrawitz said it was different and you couldn't compare the physical and the virtual world. But I think, you can. What's the difference between a physical person and their avatar? We had a long discussion about that topic and the society before the pandemics. We came to the conclusion that the virtual world can be compared to a physical one and it's not a fantasy but a reality. We talked about the reasons why the pandemics happened, what the physical and virtual world was like and what a person was capable of doing in that world.

This book doesn't exist.  
This book is an artifact from a virtual world.

Travelling the earth is more feasible than ever but it might become more problematic in the near future with ongoing and following pandemics, climate crisis destroying whole areas of land and declining fossil fuels. At the same time, virtual reality and the 'metaverse' are rapidly evolving. Today, we can visit distant and fantastical digital worlds without even leaving our homes.

How do we remember those places?

When the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020, I started exploring and traveling the virtuality. I made new friends there, discovered favorite spaces and experienced things that aren't possible in reality. Whenever I went there, I took pictures and looking back at them feels like any other collection of photographs from real events. Are virtual experiences real? Is there anything that makes them less real?

What if an artificial companion would record those journeys? Sorting my photographs, capturing them, or even taking own ones? Writing down my personal experiences, protocolling who I was with, and what I saw and talked about? This book is an experiment of what such a journal could look like, taken from the virtual world and placed in our physical environment.

Virtual photos are captured with an analogue instant picture camera. Computer fonts are turned into individual letters based on my personal handwriting. AI generated text is written down by a machine using an ink pen.

*Farinity's Journal. Stories and travelogs from virtual worlds.*  
Farina Hamann

Texts written in collaboration with  
Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3 (GPT-3) created by OpenAI,  
Processing developed by Ben Fry and Casey Reas,  
and AxiDraw SE/A3 made by Evil Mad Scientist.

Virtual worlds visited with AltspaceVR by Microsoft.

A project for the class *Posthuman Companion. Imagining,  
Writing, and Coding Science Fiction with an AI* taught by Guida  
Ribeiro, University of the Arts Bremen, winter term 2021/22.

