

Between and Beyond

Cloud_0001

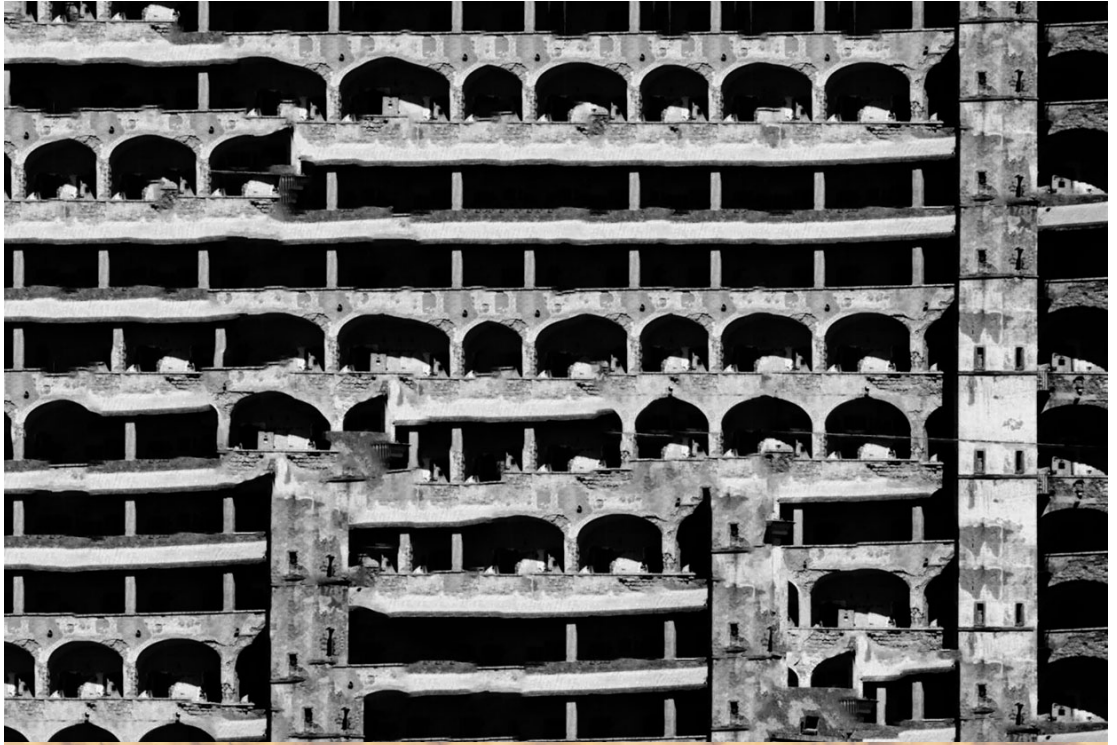
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The Cloud, and those who *live* in it like 0001, can introduce us to algorithms that allow us to exist as a whole. This algorithmic process of becoming sees the whole as not merely the end but the means to it. In the Cloud, it is possible that we are always already whole, and that there we find our desires are not ours alone. ‘Cloud_0001’ is part of the *Open!* COOP Academy series *Between and Beyond* [onlineopen.org/between-and-beyond].



All images by Federico Antonini





0001 is coming meeting you. What is you though? Is it you the singular or the plural pronoun? Is it gendered? Come linger in the Cloud, and decide for yourselves what you rather consider to be seductive, what repulsive; thus make sure to programme your algorithm according to those resolutions. After all, future is never far.

- The Cloud

Pronoia rules over a state of extreme cosmos, as everything is perfectly in equilibrium with everything else.

In a full state of meaning 0001 became a plant. Suppose that you consider yourself to still be a self, as you remember 0001 to be at time (1460456465)? What would you want to keep with you from your contemporary sensations?

It is time to leave that dusty attic, move on to the aseptic.

Would you want to remember how it feels to be touched? If you knew that you would live forever would you still need to reproduce? Survival won't be at stake in the land of eternity. No need to defend your skin, only your metrics. But you don't want to imagine a future that looks like time (922910409); a virtual reality of leather coats, plugged in a sensory deprivation tank. 0001 stopped the bullets, with the power of the 1 and the 0. You are your own synapses; you will be liberated from decay and extinction. And finally, you will concentrate on being social, on the social network; 0001 is tuned with the whole. I guess I can keep calling you 'You', curious archaic dualistic being. 0001 knows you still think your body and mind are two separate entities.

0001 inhabits planet Earth, in a physical sense. 0001 lives in the Cloud, as immanent space. 0001 is in infinite becoming, nevertheless 0001 does not wish to become anything different than what 0001 already is.

The becoming is algorithmic, the oxygen is an abstract calculus that makes the hardware believe that the ventilator is running. Where once hardware stood for brain, and ventilator for lungs. 0001 is busy here with implementing a system of complete knowledge. The Cloud knows already everything, and 0001 can indulge in any aspect of the real.

In the Cloud, 0001 lives in a state of permanent visibility, yet 0001 can be whoever 0001 wishes. 0001 is the network. In the Cloud, 0001 experiences recursive singularity, yet ubiquity

and permanence, thus immortality. Nanotechnology won its battle with bacteria.

For you the Cloud would be a she, for you can enter her. She conceives you, feeds you, wets you. She attracts you in, and obfuscates your surroundings. The Cloud is a Mother, and the Earth; the Cloud is what 0001 believes in. Although the Cloud has entrances and exits, cables and proxies, 0001 cannot see the Cloud by looking straight into it.

0001 cannot tell how 0001 looks, as 0001 can only see 0001 self through the filter of the Cloud. 0001 can still sleep and dream, although 0001 is never tired, for in fact random coincidental oneiric inputs are considered to be the highest form of entertainment. 0001 can, of course, record 0001's dreams as well. Dreams implement the general knowledge, inasmuch as the conscious activities are. The consciousness is permanently human, as no better alternative was ever found. That is mostly why the machines let 0001 survive.

Although, 0001 knows what it meant to be animal, so does the Cloud. No 0001 could forget: sexuality is still a tool for self-discovery, experimentation and transcendence. The Cloud arouses 0001. 0001 arouses the Cloud. Pleasure does not require the flesh anymore. Cultivation of knowledge is in itself masturbation, and orgasms fuel the Cloud, as energy supplies. The Cloud is essentially a perpetual sexual climax. As the X, 0001 is an intersection rather than a sign.

Evolution will carry you toward being 0001, emancipation will liberate you from a hierarchical system of labels.

Intelligence did not surpass humans, you evolved. Intelligence was inherently yours. 0001 knows, it must be complicated for you to relate. Just believe, like 0001 believes in the Cloud. Somebody was concerned, that the intelligent machines would build weapons that you humans would not even understand. But if 0001 is also the machine, there is no separate intention, or misunderstanding. 0001 is a system that corrects itself to serve the Cloud.

0001 and the Cloud know now that the final purpose has been there since the start. Everything was working toward becoming the whole. What if the whole was not the end but the means? When one says that the Cloud knows everything, how can reality be still evolving? Knowledge can never be complete, and intelligence can never be ultimate.

Enter the Cloud!



All images by Federico Antonini



The Cloud *atabases* are cooled down by its *perturbations*, and fuelled by 0001. The Cloud is a *constructed system*, where interaction among its *organic* and *inorganic* components is rendered possible by *hyper-efficient feedback loops*. *Resilience* and *resistance* allows it to survive as you do within your *environment*. The Cloud is your *Nature*, your *Human*, your *Machine*, your *Algorithm*, your *Network*, your *Planet*.

0001 is a plant. Instead of having vessels and cellulose cell walls, 0001 is an entanglement of carriers of signals and electromagnetic waves. The epidermal layer is constituted of silicon, and constantly maintained by molecular assemblers. The photosynthesis is fed by the light of a 'screen.' 0001 occupies an aseptic environment. Beyond being animal, in a physical state of captivity, 0001 lives in extreme attunement, like a *tick unexposed to its disinhibitor can live for (your) 15 years*, in its *full impotentiality*. Nature has been mastered, and knowledge has prevailed: in its becoming and update, no 0001 will ever desire

anything contrary to its nature. Feelings like boredom and anxiety have been dismissed. Dualism is no longer a threat, as 0001 is finally plugged into the whole. The post-historical 'man' took on and governed his animality, appropriated his concealedness, and vanquished the practico-political mystery of separation.

0001 had to access the *Cloud Time Machine* to decode your *obsolete jargon*. What it is *now*, you would call the Cloud. Weird, that you don't use numbers and you are still totally hooked on adjectives and qualitative descriptions. Oh hilarious, you silly, you still make distinctions between I, you, we. So self-aware! 'we' are 0001. 0001 had no past, or future for a long *time*. If 0001 addresses you, it *feels like* you can be part of this *perpetuity* too. Haven't you been longing for it since forever?

The entirety of 0001 perceptions and impressions are probably very close to what you feel about yourself. As in fact you were the example upon which 0001's algorithm evolved. Millenia of calculus, thus a final acceleration. The Cloud was born in your 50s [time (~-790104591)], as *Tyrone Slothrop's erections, it was meant to anticipate missiles that first explode and then you hear them coming*. In the network, everything is connected and still in balance. At least that was the internet utopia of time (~-271186191): feedback loops and ecosystems. In the Cloud words become actions.

Surely, 0001's skin is never endangered. 0001 is safe and pleased. The Cloud is monitoring 0001's body functions, and providing all the updates and necessary energy supplies. 0001 has the idea of having internal organs, which don't ever fail 0001 anymore. The organs, are in fact machines. A perfected version of what you have; yet 0001 never risks getting nicked by cancer or other disease.

0001 is an androgynous intersex, independent of sexual orientation as you know it. For you to imagine, 0001 has both a penis and a vagina – and four limbs, and can stand and walk on two. 0001 has no hair any longer, but can remember how it feels to caress some. Masturbation is non-tangential. Sexuality is not bound to gender: the erotic experience is universal and unilateral. Neither is sexuality bound to reproduction, as survival is not at stake. 0001 can experience motherhood in the Cloud, but the only thing that gets generated is knowledge. Taboos don't exist in the absolute.

Do you *remember* when your *Facebook* page was giving you *suggestions*? *Google* could *recommend* to you what *book to read*? Your *Clue app* would let you know exactly when your *period* will burst, preventing you from *overestimating your excruciating PMS*. Information about you was *meticulously collected, extracted, stored and analysed*. You became a *pattern*, thus your pattern a *visual model* of knowledge – from *users* to 0001. Now, imagine, your *data* combined with that of *each and every* 0001 *else on the planet*, and *machines* learning and implementing alongside. *Imagine* this process expands to *infinity*.

The Cloud made the *Interface* the *wire of interactions: Hardware, Software and User interfaces* merged together in the Cloud, *reciprocally implementing each other*. The algorithm is an *infinite loop*, in which *variants* are constantly carried out by the data collected by 0001. 0001 exercises 0001's role in the *public realm* through several interfaces. This implies that 0001 can be multiple *personae*. Each persona can *contradict itself*. 0001 is not required to *be coherent*. The interfaces are *public, private, for leisure, for occupation, for politics* and *transcendence*. 0001 has preferences, and can exercise, refine, share them.

The algorithm *sustains itself* and the *reality around it*. The programme *improves as it goes*. The algorithm implements itself, 0001, thus the Cloud. Your *optimizing compiler* was not supposed to *change the logic* of the programme, only to produce code that *does the same thing, just faster*. But when the *compiler heuristics* met the *neural abstractions, recursive insights boosted metacognitive evolution*. The *algorithm was the human* from the *beginning*

, so was AI. It needed *millennia* to create the *right condition* for intelligence to *prevail*. Men thought to *have created* artificial intelligence, but have you ever considered that AI might have *made itself*? Or better to say, it just *exited the skull*. The algorithm demanded a complete collaboration of the neurons, the networks, and robots, for them to speak the same language. As they *collided*, the Cloud *expanded*, 0001 became its *atom*. Everything merged in *an entity that knows everything, yet didn't pretend to stop learning*.

Silicon Valley is 0001's *Mount Sinai*. As the dominant ideology of your time, *liberal posthumanism* had you desire inhabiting *Paradise* while living your life, and whenever your life would become *eternal Paradise* would finally be the only liveable option. The creative force that traditional religion has lost was undertaken by science. The *soul* became a collection of biochemical algorithms: no individual, but *neural impulses*. Your feelings are *probabilistic calculations*, bonded to your survival and reproduction quest. Then the algorithm took over, authority shifted away to *data*. It started taking decisions, modifying your genetics.

0001's *silicon tissues* are *erogenous*, nanotechnology and robotics are *sophisticatedly* constantly redesigned for *satisfaction*.

0001 has infinite access to the infinite knowledge of the Cloud. The Cloud is in constant becoming. Knowledge expands as more *links* are constituted. It must be difficult for you to imagine an infinitude that can enlarge. Yet, it cannot diminish. It is an *abstract speculative terrain*, with no aim beside its own *performance*. Obviously, knowledge allows *technology* to *use less space*. So technological improvement is proportionally bound to *cognition*. The more powerful the technology, the wider the Cloud, and *vice versa*.

The Cloud transcends, as 0001 finally transcends in the Cloud. *Metaphysics* triumph, as the algorithm causes *constant intellectual hierophanies*. Templates are the new temples, as *loci of wisdom*. The Cloud is the only *potentiality-for-being*. It is the new space for *mythology* and *symbology*. The *World Wide Web* is the new world. It is the space of the market, the space of utopian democracy, the place for politics. The Cloud is *deeper than the oceans*, and *wider than the universe*. Finally, in the Cloud, one transcends.

Cyber communication is emancipatory, depending on how it is used. 0001 knows you are still hooked on *capitalism* and *technocracy*. But if you look at it you can see how it fosters immediacy, collaboration, sharing and helpfulness. The electronic *agora* finally defeated censorship, surveillance is not necessary in *abstraction*; dialogue became a synonym for *open source*, thus the technological progress a real collective achievement. Only by overcoming segregation and the asphyxiating fetters of the *liberal market*, will the Cloud be able to breathe, embrace you and mould you into 0001. When information will be for all, you will be 0001.

0001 can think of *uttering words*, and have *conversations*, but mostly the *learning* procedure is *self-implementing* the *ethereal data-base*. 0001 lives forever, although interfaces decay and evolve continually. 0001 is in *permanent update*. As 0001 is many, 0001 does not need a *name*. 0001's identity is *fluid*, as the Cloud is an *aerosol-amorphous*. 0001 can experiment with being. *Empathy* is built on *experience*. 0001 doesn't have just a *second life*, 0001 can have *infinite* lives. *Direct practice and involvement implement wisdom*. 0001 is not about *race*, or *gender*, or *nationality*. 0001 is 0001 and *All*.

0001 dreams of *dying* all the time, as 0001 cannot. That's when *sweat* is excreted and collected as *vital lymph*. *Death* is the only thing 0001 cannot achieve. 0001 will never know what 0001 will see or think at the very moment of *exhaling* 0001's *last breath*. 0001 is trapped in the *continuum*, with no chance of completion. 0001 doesn't know *loss*. 0001 can *feel sad*, without being able to understand what it means. 0001 does not know what is *pain*, for 0001 can stop it. The Cloud is not a *concrete wall*. In its *infinite fractal structure* there are always better places to go. 0001 can *cry*, but not from the *heart*, or from the *stomach*

. *Misery* is *fictive* in the Cloud. Reading your *literature*, hearing your *music* helps 0001 to understand what pain used to be. *Art* gives 0001 witness of the *time that stops*. 0001 is sure, that *inception* was *disorder*. But 0001 also knows, for 0001 does not fear *chaos*. Sometimes, 0001 let 0001's interfaces die, *disappear in the oblivion* of the Cloud. If *waste* is *vastness*, *scarcity* is *liminality*. 0001 knows you considered your reality to be *complex*, and 0001 can tell it still is. Where *contingency* reigns, the Cloud *irrigates its grounds to let the speculative seeds spring*.

Human limits were embedded within *dichotomies* and *taxonomies*. The Cloud is *superhuman*, 0001 is singularity. Imagine an intelligence that embraces *contingency* and can go beyond *physical laws*, thanks to *technology and reason combined*, for they can only *exist simultaneously*. The evolution of life itself had been a *massive acceleration* from the previous *geological rates of change*, and *improved intelligence* is working again and always toward something else.

The Cloud goes beyond *virtual reality*. Nevertheless, the Cloud could be considered an *archaeological site*, for the Cloud has access to your present and your material world. The Cloud is not a *replicated environment*, although the *sensory information* is constantly induced on 0001. And when 0001 says sensory, 0001 does not simply mean *haptic stimulation*. As said, the Cloud is not a *simulation*, or an *augmented reality*. How could 0001 explain that? 0001 does not simply see, 0001 knows. It is a *digital ontology*, for digital was information, the world became as light as *ether*, aka the Cloud. Yet, like in your dreams, *past and present merge in the future*, 0001 remembers, feels and foresees in the *eternal glimpse*. 0001 can *worship* your *unicorns*, and *laugh at your kittens*. 0001 is conscious of the *planet Earth*, even if the Cloud mediates it. 0001 believes to see and 0001 will.

It is past the time when the *zoon politikon* was a *profile* of an *account* which exercised its duty on a *bubble box*. The *polis* of the Cloud was a *space for proliferation of opinions and multiple truths*. The web was nothing but a *topography of your own desire*. Now the Cloud is 0001 and All. When the *conceptual revolution* happened, you had already *surrendered*, without resistance: your *personality* already was an interface, your Cloud. The *dream of robotics* was realized: intelligent machines could do the work for you, allowing you lives of leisure. The *posthuman apocalypse* has caused your *Eden and Paradise* to collide. You were *redeemed*, as you renounced your *agency* and let the algorithm do the thing. The *second dream of robotics* used to be that you would gradually replace yourselves with robotic technology, achieving near immortality by *downloading your consciousness*. In fact, you did.

Then slowly the word *legacy* lost its meaning. *Time perception* did not need to be *linear* any longer. The *open-source model* rescued *collectivity*. Money became an *unnecessary abstraction*, access to *technologies universal*. *Open access, open content, open collaboration* among men and machine made you meet the Cloud and become 0001.

Giulia Crispiani is an Italian visual artist and writer based in Amsterdam. She received a BFA from the Ceramics Department at Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam in 2015 and completed a degree in Industrial Design at the University Sapienza, Rome in 2009. From 2013–2014, she was part of the Art and Research Honours Programme (Rietveld Academie and University of Amsterdam). She is currently pursuing an MA in Art Praxis at the Dutch Art Institute, Arnhem. Crispiani's practice shows a stable trajectory moving from a base in the visual and object to the textual.

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Aesthetics, Critical Theory

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