

pastiche

A Collective Composition of New York City
Ivan Safrin & Christian Marc Schmidt

About Pastiche

The city is a composite of impressions. Beyond the built environment, it is a constantly changing pastiche of associations and experiences—not just of the people who inhabit it, but of the larger community. New York City, in particular, has two realities: the reality of the physical environment, and the reality of the idea—of what the city and its diverse neighborhoods signify. Inseparably intertwined, these two realities constantly continue to inform each other. *Pastiche* is a dynamic data visualization that maps keywords from blog articles to the New York neighborhoods they are written in reference to, geographically positioned in a navigable, spatial view. Keywords are assigned based on relevance and recency, surrounding their corresponding neighborhoods. The result is a dynamically changing description of the city, formed around individual experiences and perspectives.

System requirements

Pastiche runs on Apple Macintosh computers (Intel processor and OS X 10.5 required).

Opening Pastiche

Make sure you are connected to the Internet before running *Pastiche*. After you open the application, wait for the title screen to appear—it may take a few seconds as the keyword data is downloaded. (Note: Keyword data is refreshed constantly, and the most recent data is loaded every time you start the application). Once the title screen appears, you can start using the application.

Navigating in Pastiche

To navigate, pan around the visible area by clicking and dragging your mouse in any direction. Dragging down, for example, will move the camera along the z-axis. You can also rotate the view in any direction by holding SHIFT and dragging your mouse. The rotation point is always set relative to the center of your screen. Use TAB to toggle between viewing neighborhoods and keywords. Use the mouse wheel or the < and > keys to zoom in and out of the view.

Move your mouse over neighborhoods to select them—one selected, the neighborhood will be centered in your view, and its related keywords (and related neighborhoods) will be highlighted.

You may press SPACE to toggle the list-view on or off. In list view, neighborhoods and keywords are shown side-by-side to allow easy comparison. Click on a neighborhood to bring it to the center of the perspective-view.

Support

Please email pastiche@christianmarcschmidt.com with any questions or feedback.