

CONCEPT AND DESCRIPTION

The artwork *Lingua Franca* hides and reveals three main protagonists: Standard, Compression and Interaction.

Standard

- Language, symbols whose perception helps in human communication, is considered as one of the key arrangements of standardised customs. We know English as the standard tool for today's global communication, or *lingua franca*.
- We often use standard paper sizes, standard margins and alignments to communicate in writing. When we attend conferences, we are accustomed to the standard practise of printed conference programmes with a list of authors and the titles of their presentations.
- Because of the academic language standard—sophisticated scientific language—the words are sometimes lost on the audience.

Compression

- There are usually hours of research and investigation behind each conference presentation. Days of searching databases on the Internet or in physical libraries are compressed into a short, timed presentation.
- Personal notes on the conference programme compress my memories of what the presenters looked like and what the main points of their presentations were.
- The scanned materials used in this artwork come from the inherited book collection, a legacy of four generations of engineers, artists, music lovers, physicists, computer engineers, and educators, a biologist, a bank employee, an architect, a historian, a mathematician, and a theoretical computer scientist. This universe is now compressed into 34 digital textures of book spines and covers.

Interaction

- *Lingua Franca* is a tribute to and interaction with Mladen Stilinovic's artwork AN ARTIST WHO CANNOT SPEAK ENGLISH IS NO ARTIST. The image representation of the pink flag hides the concept for which it was created—the slogan—and thus interacts with the other parts of the composition.
- The dual message of the hidden slogan— authoritative propaganda as opposed to popular language and the aesthetics of a self-made protest banner—interacts with formal textual information that reveals the content of the slogan.
- The half-hidden printed text in the artwork interacts with the watercolour surfaces and scanned textures that cover it, filling in the gaps between blank space and personal notes.