

Emoji Center – Visit a physical space for digital emotions at this art pop-up in South Korea.

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Emoji Center is an interactive art experience exploring the language of emoji, and emotions conveyed through technology. Exhibited at [ACT Festival](#) by Benjamin Chaykin at [Asia Culture Center](#) in Gwangju, South Korea, visitors to Emoji Center choose an emoji that relates to them, then watch it manifest into the real world. The emoji are brought to life by digitally-enhanced robotic arms, then printed to an official card for visitors to take home and share online. Emoji Center runs through Sunday December 18th, 2016.

Emoji Center video: <https://vimeo.com/195768959>

Website: <http://emojicenter.net>

Press Images: <http://emojicenter.net/emojicenter-pr-images.zip>

The sterile, minimal, and bright design of the space reflects Emoji Center's scientific branding, which is present on all materials inside. Using your chosen emoji, a story is animated by robotics, representing the process of sending an emoji to someone. Watch your emoji notice you, reflect on itself by looking into a mirror, dwell in a bath of doubt (electronically-harmless mineral oil), then become tickled and assured of its sense of humor.

"We use emoji every day, but rarely give them a second thought. I want to take them out of their digital cages, and create a strange reality where we can see what they represent a little differently."

– Ben Chaykin, Artist, Emoji Center Creator

Through the official status of Emoji Center, each visitor is granted a certified Card of Validation, holding them 'legally' responsible for the emoji of their choosing. A second copy of this card is publicly displayed in the space, on the emoji library wall. At the same time, [emojicenter.net](#) is a growing online database of all existing Cardholders for the world to see.

The experience is built on a number of hacked-together technologies. Arriving visitors use an iPad to submit a [Google Form](#) with their selected emoji and name (or instagram handle). This populates a [Google Spreadsheet](#). A [Processing](#) sketch calls [Temboo](#) and [Sheets API](#) for that latest entry on the spreadsheet, and sends that data to the rest of the system. [Emojicenter.net](#) also uses Sheets API to update in real-time. Each emoji is digitally displayed on an 8" screen, attached to a [uArm](#) – an [Arduino](#)-based desktop robotic arm. Robotic movement is activated serially by [Raspberry Pi](#) running a Processing sketch that listens for [OSC messages](#) from [Max](#), and a timeline composed in [Vezér](#). Finally, a [Photoshop](#) automation fills a pre-designed template with the current visitor's information, then prints a card through an [Evolis Primacy card printer](#).

Credits: Artist: [Benjamin Chaykin](#). Collaborator: [Erik Molano](#). Contributions: [Alaa Mendili](#), [Camille Durand](#), McKenna Dean, Aya Kuroki, Tony Miller, Thomas McCormick, Eunjeong Moon, Seunghyeok Bak, Do Young Kim, Jung Woo Kim, [Trekki Trax](#) .

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