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Meowster thesis

Xiaojing (Monica) Fan
DePaul University, monicafxj@gmail.com

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MEOWSTER THESIS

BY

XIAOJING FAN (Monica)

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND
DIGITAL MEDIA OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN GAME DESIGN

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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DePaul University
College of Computing and Digital Media

MFA Thesis Verification Form

This thesis has been read and approved by the thesis committee below according to the requirements of the School of Design graduate program and DePaul University.

Name: **Xiaojing Fan (Monica)**

Title of thesis: Meowster Thesis

Date of Thesis Defense: Jun 10, 2021

Brian Schrank [Chair]

Allen Turner [Member 1]

Peter McDonald [Member 2]

* A copy of this form has been signed, but may only be viewed after submission and approval of FERPA request letter.

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ABSTRACT

Meowster Thesis is a game about cats, loneliness and what it means to be alive. It is also what keeps me alive thru isolation during Covid-19 pandemic.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Professor Brian Schrank for making this possible.

Thanks to Professor Allen Turner for guiding me through one of the darkest moments in my life.

Thanks to Professor Peter McDonald for so, so many inspiration.

Thanks to Depaul Game Design program for help me turn a crazy fever dream into a reality.

Thanks to my cat, Zero for not consume me even when I am late to feed him during the development.

Lately, thanks to Game Industry Gathering for keep reminding me the fun of being a game developer when I wanted to burn away everything.

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CHAPTER 1

Description of Game

Meowster Thesis is an autobiographical game where you get to explore the world of a person through the eyes of a cat. There are mini games where the player can enjoy the playfulness of the cat in a melancholy world.

CHAPTER 2

Statement of Intent

This past year has been crazy to me. I was in an abusive relationship which took everything to get out of. The world shuts down due to a virus. Then the protest happened, someone burned my apartment building, the next thing I know I was shaking on the street in flaming Chicago with my cat. Later I learnt my race is no longer ok to people for some reasons beyond my understanding.

I spend months alone, in my apartment, with nobody to talk to.

What was left, was hours and hours of thinking. About the meaning of life, about who I am, about reason for existing. I stumbled into game design by chance, it has answered a lot of questions I have had in life while creating many of others.

This game is the product of thinking.

CHAPTER 3

[Rules and Instructions] AND [Link to the Game and Inputs]

Movement: W A S D or arrow keys

Each mini game has its own tutorials in game.

Game Link: <https://monicattie.itch.io/cat-university-master-thesis>

APPENDIX 1

Supporting Documentation 1

Game Link: <https://monicattie.itch.io/cat-university-master-thesis>

Playthrough Link: <https://youtu.be/Vgdw58ocOsQ>

REFERENCES/INSPIRATION

Yamaguchi, Yoshiko. Ye Lai Xiang, YouTube.
<https://youtu.be/3I4ORHLrQQE>

Original song by FLiPLUKA (flipluka.bandcamp.com)