

Supporting Non-Verbal Visual Communication in Online Group Art Therapy

Brennan Jones

bdgjones@ucalgary.ca

Sara Prins Hankinson

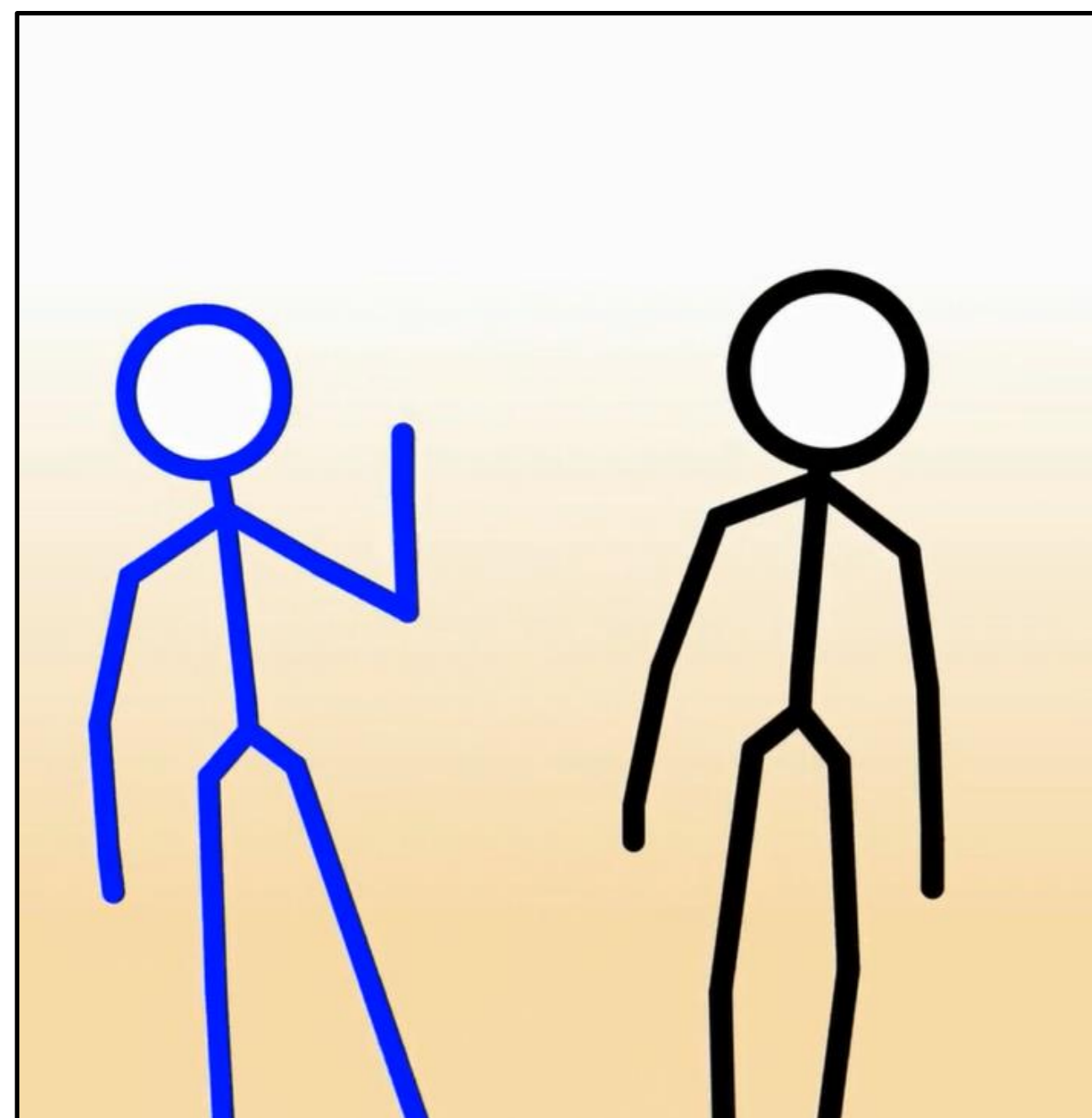
sprins@bccancer.bc.ca

Kate Collie

kate.collie@albertahealthservices.ca

Anthony Tang

tonyt@ucalgary.ca

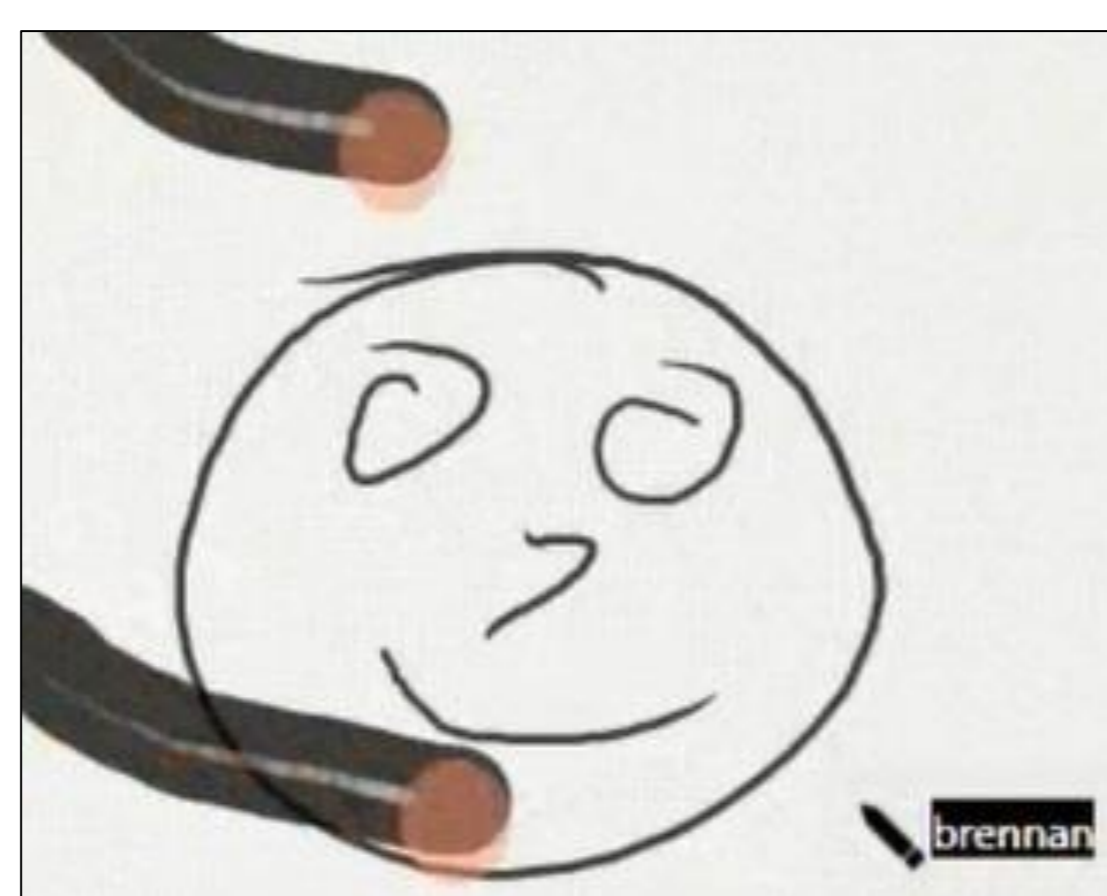


Description

We designed a series of tools that support collaboration in online group art therapy by enhancing awareness of non-verbal cues and group presence.

Our goals in designing these tools were to promote shared creative experiences, promote emotional bonding between group members, allow for meaningful interaction through non-verbal communication, and allow group members to be aware of each other without actually seeing each other.

Enhancing Feedthrough



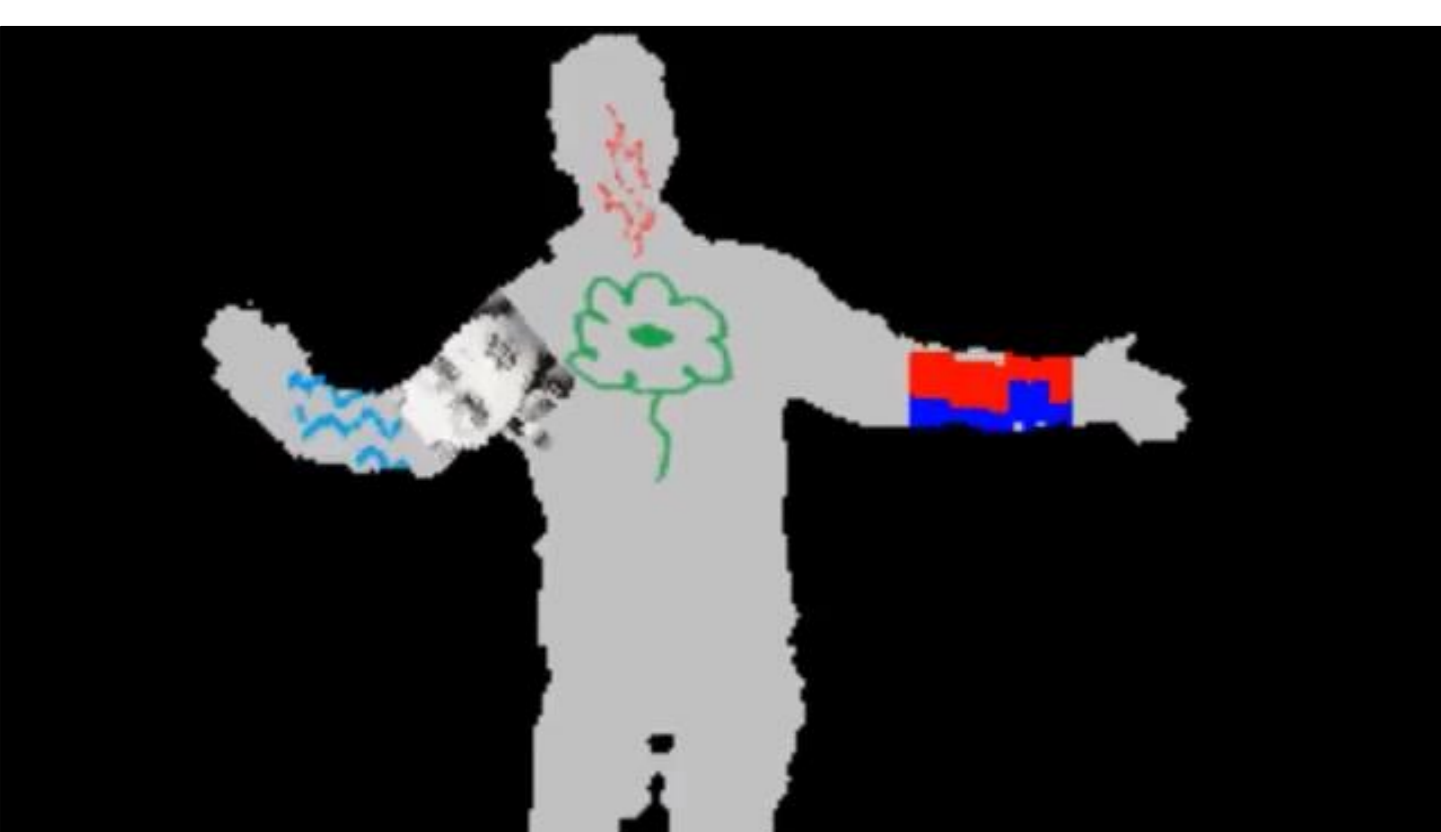
- Shared online drawing space utilizing tablets.
- Representation of pen pressure, finger contact width, and drawing speed.

Painting the Environment



- Users are represented as silhouettes.
- Users can draw strokes in a 3D environment and interact with their environment.

Bodyspace Painting



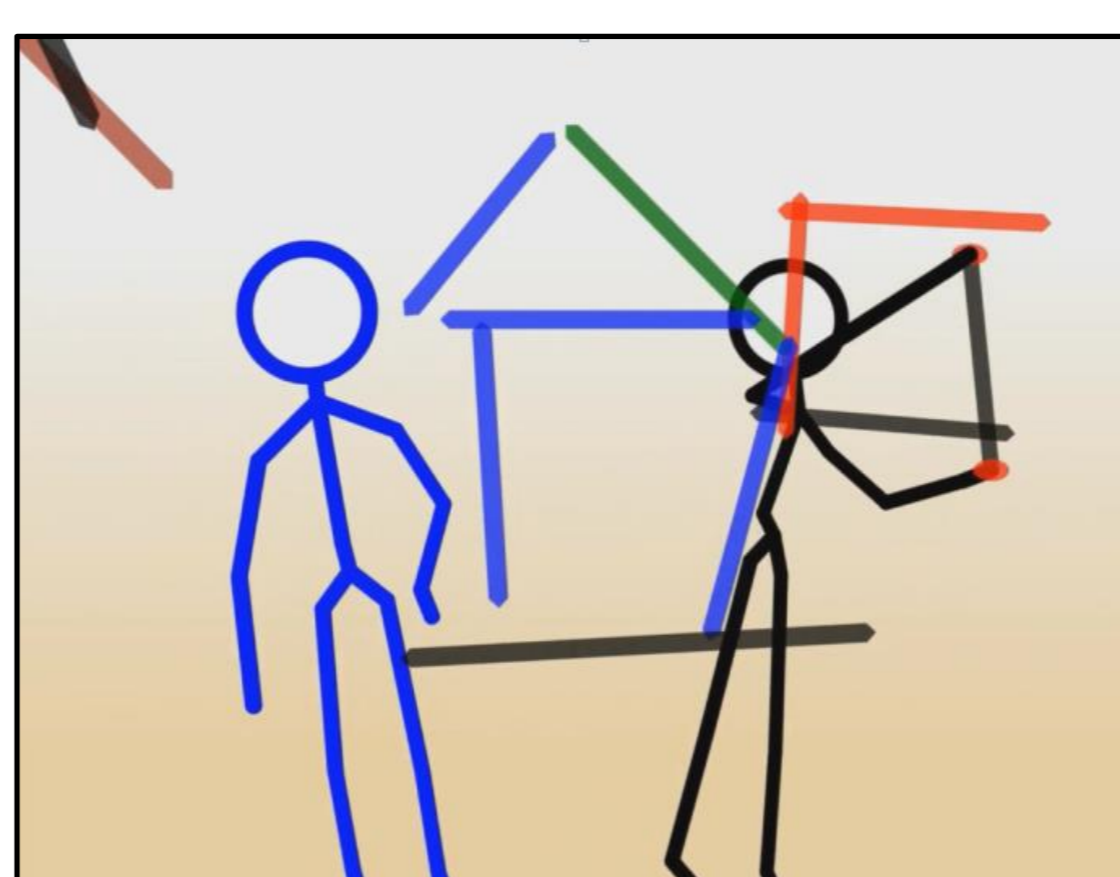
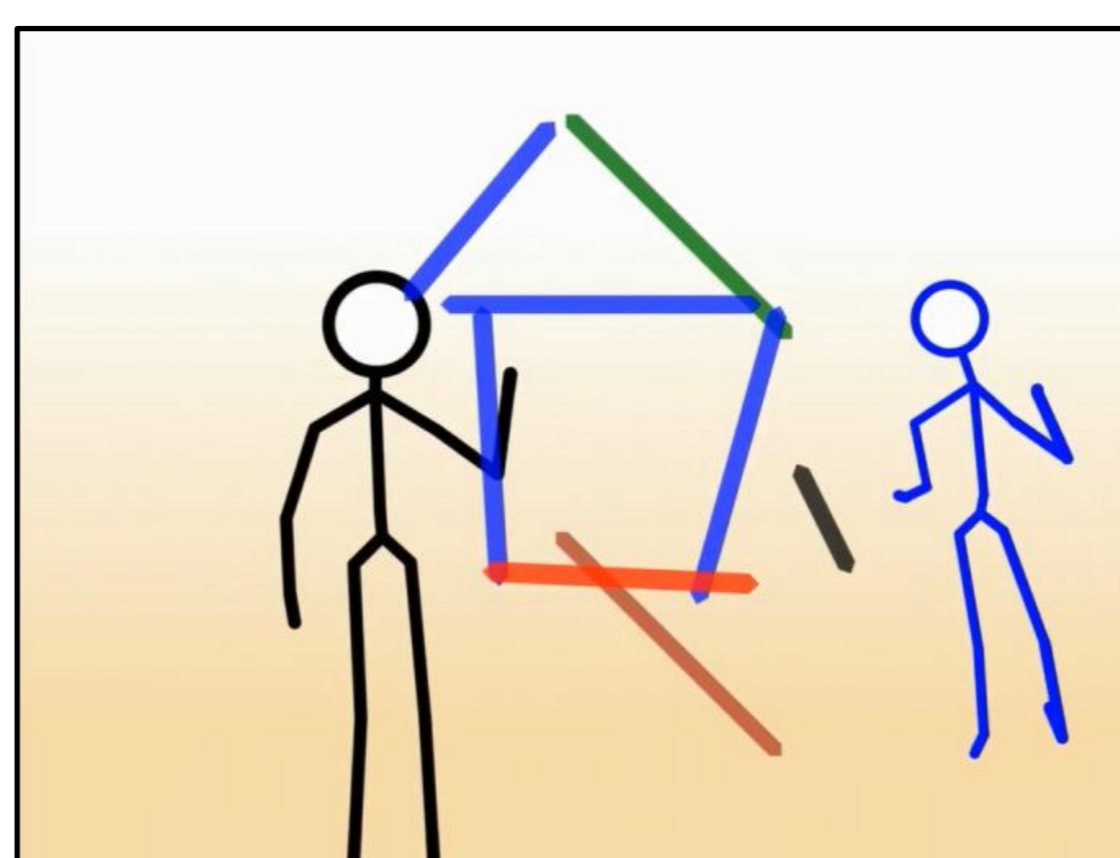
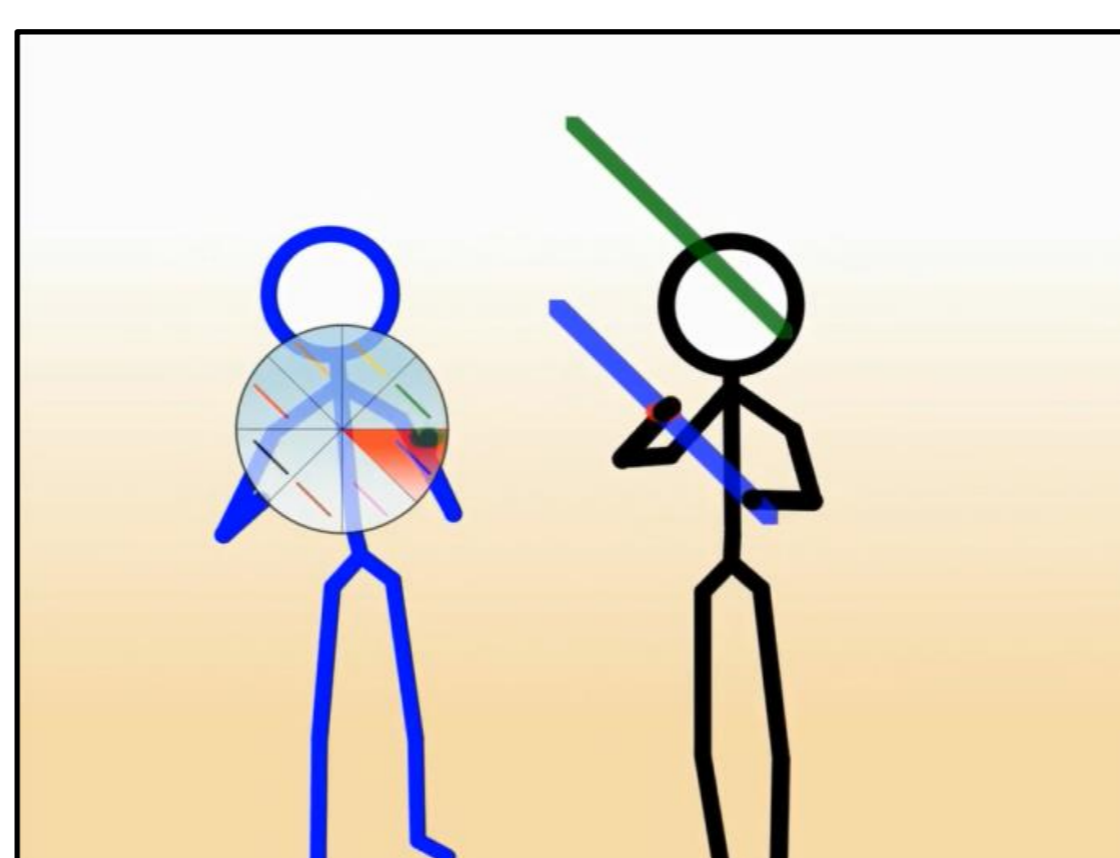
- Users can customize their appearances in an artistic way by painting on their own silhouettes.

Exploration of Painting Primitives



- Users can create collages from clip art images or from found images.
- Users can also play around as if in a sandbox.

Stick Figure Art Therapy



- Conveys its user's body language in a unique way, providing people with even more ability to shield themselves from unwanted attention to their actual appearance.
- Users can create artifacts together using sticks, rather than through drawing.
 - Similar to driftwood art.
- Users can also engage in playful interactions with each other, thus promoting emotional bonding.