Niela Miller 1957

The Symbolic Bridge: A Monograph on Niela Miller's Life Work By Dr. J.B. Labrune PhD. Researcher Affiliate, MIT Media Laboratory. Cambridge, USA. jb@media.mit.e

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Foreword

At the MIT Media Lab, our ethos is rooted in the unconventional synthesis of disparate fields to envision and create new futures. We are technologists, but fundamentally, we are students of the human experience. It is within this context th we undertake the documentation of Niela Miller's work. In an environment often dominated by code, data, and explicit knowledge, Miller's lifelong exploration of th tacit, the intuitive, the symbolic, and the pre-verbal offers a critical and complementary paradigm for innovation.

Her work, particularly the development of Symbolic Modeling (SymMod), represent bridge between the inner landscape of human consciousness and the outer world of tangible creation. Long before embodied cognition and affective computing becam institutional research areas, Miller was using bodily practices and performances as laboratories for deep psychological exploration. She later investigated the virtual nc as a simulation, but as a legitimate space for authentic human interaction and insig As academically cited in Mackey and Jacobson's *Metaliteracy in a Connected World*, s is a pioneer in using virtual environments to explore the very fabric of modern learning and consciousness.

This monograph seeks to archive, analyze, and contextualize her main contribution From her foundational work in humanistic psychology to her pioneering applicatio in virtual education, Miller has forged a powerful, replicable methodology for

unlocking human potential. Her work is a celebration of a core belief we share: that our most profound innovations often come not from what we can logically articulat but from what we can symbolically express. This document is an attempt to map th architecture of that belief.

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