Tinkering, Play and the Adjacent Possible
(Amos Blanton)

Constructivist Designer, Educator and Researcher Amos Blanton ([Interacting Minds Centre](#) & [Dokk1, Aarhus Public Library](#)) joins us this episode to talk about tinkering, play, and the adjacent possibilities that come with it.

We talk about past endeavours - running the [Scratch](#) online community, designing learning through play experiences in [LEGO House](#), founding [the LEGO Idea Studio](#), and co-developing the vision for the [Scintillae Research Atelier](#) - and then move to Amos current research on Collective Creativity and how solar art machines offer wonderful opportunities to invite collaborative creativity, shared decision making and cultural transmission.

[00:01:08]   **Humanistic PsychoTherapy**

See [APA Dictionary of Psychology](#)

[00:01:19]   **Jay Silver**

Jay Silver is an electrical engineer and toy inventor. He is the Founder/CEO of [JoyLabz](#)/[Makey Makey](#) and was the first ever Maker Research Scientist at Intel. See his website for further information: https://1derful.org/

[00:01:23]   **Makey Makey**

See https://makeymakey.com

[00:01:36]   **The Scratch Project**

See https://scratch.mit.edu/about

[00:02:32]   **Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab**

"The Lifelong Kindergarten group develops technologies, activities, and communities to engage young people, from all backgrounds, in creative learning experiences, so they can develop their thinking, their voices, and their identities." — [Lifelong Kindergarten Website](#)

[00:02:55]   **Mitch Resnick**

LEGO Papert Professor of Learning Research at MIT Media Lab.
See **https://www.media.mit.edu/people/mres/overview/**

[00:03:55]   **Warrior Cats**

Fantasy Books by Erin Hunter. See https://warriorcats.com/books

[00:05:15]   **Brian Eno's concept of Scenius or Communal Genius**

Brian Eno is a British Musician who coined the term scenius to
describe the "intelligence and the intuition of a whole cultural scene.
It is the communal form of the concept of the genius."

See this WIRED article for further context.

[00:07:11]   **Tinkering or Tinkerer**

"Tinkering is thinking with your hands and learning through doing. It's
slowing down and getting curious about the mechanics and mysteries
of the everyday stuff around you."
— Karen Wilkinson and Mike Petrich, Art of Tinkering

[00:07:19]   **Constructivist Learning Theory**

See the Exploratorium Website for a discussion of constructivist
learning theory as it relates to tinkering.

[00:07:26]   **Seymour Pappert**

Founding Faculty member of the MIT media lab. See
https://news.mit.edu/2016/seymour-papert-pioneer-of-construction
ist-learning-dies-0801 for a discussion of his work and influence.

[00:07:42]   **Tinkering Studio at the Exploratorium in San Francisco**

See **https://www.exploratorium.edu/tinkering**

[00:09:40]   **Lifelong Kindergarten Book**

[00:09:44]   **Metaphor of Low Floor, Heigh Ceilings, Wide Walls**

See Mitch Resnick Blog on this matter.

[00:12:50]   **LEGO Foundation (Billund, Denmark)**

The LEGO Foundation is a private Danish research and philanthropic foundation that has grown out of the LEGO Toy company originally. See https://learningthroughplay.com/

The LEGO House is an interactive museum that allows visitors to engage with LEGO bricks in a vast variety of experiences.

[00:14:13]   **Lego Idea Studio**

[00:14:35]   **Reggio Children Foundation**
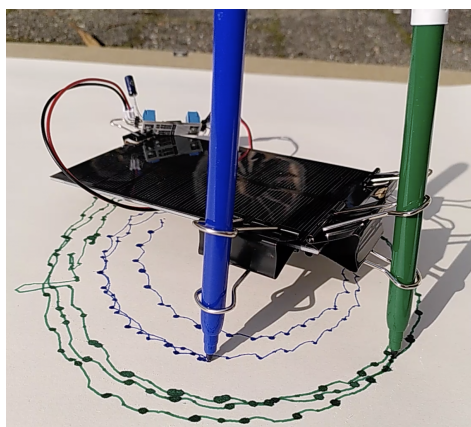
See https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/ for general information about Reggio Children, the Reggio Approach and related information.

To learn more about the atelier, Amos helped set up see Scintillæ https://scintillae.org/en/scintillae-project/

[00:15:00]   **Cranky Contraptions**

[00:16:14]   **Playing with the Sun**

See https://hedge.amosamos.net/s/xfKYsI81H

[00:19:22]   [MakerFaire](#) at [Dokk1](#)

"Dokk1 houses the main library and the Citizens' Services department in Aarhus, Denmark. Dokk1 has numerous facilities for social activities, association activities and networking." - [Dokk1](#)

[00:21:30]   **Documentation**

For a description of documentation and what it entails, see the Making Learning Visible Resources on the [Project Zero Website.](#) The Document [Documentation and Display: What's the Difference?](#) can be a good starting point.

[00:29:05]   **handle mod** (danish)

[00:32:31]   [Donal Schön](#)

Was a Professor at MIT Media Lab and author of "The Reflective Practitioner (1983)" ´, which introduced the ideas of reflection-in-action and knowledge-in-action to the educational field.

[00:44:00]   **Stuart Kaufmann**

The "adjacent possible" theory proposes that biological systems are able to morph into more complex systems by making incremental, relatively less energy consuming changes in their makeup. — [WIRED](#)

[Swim Bladder and Stuart Kaufman NPR article](#)

[00:47:47]   **David Graeber**

David Graeber was an American author, anthropologist and anarchist.

The Quote: "the ultimate, hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently." — David Graeber, [The Utopia of Rules: On Technology, Stupidity, and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy](#)

Learn more about Amos Blanton and his research

- Amos Blanton's Website: https://www.amosamos.net/
- Documentation of Amos Blanton's current projects:

   https://masto.amosamos.net/lightnin