

UBERMORGEN

Theoretical Art and Binary Primitivism

We hallucinate about living in a consensual hallucination, a space and time construct that is both so exciting and so scary, that to survive, we create stress outlets that are killing, hurting, entertaining and amusing us. The physical, hence, sensory feeling and the assumed knowledge about the atomization of everything, hands us the opportunity to switch, to recombine and to think on so many levels and in dimensions and collusion that our actual existence at times truly feels like pure energy.

1948, 1984, 2020, true entangled Chinese rats, subversive and free, while subjected to the only currently existing form of AI. We do call it Skynet: A network of global public and private corporations governed by greed and their own need for self-preservation. These organisms are constantly growing, dividing, merging, contracting, slowing and very seldom, dying. These entities have optimized themselves to parasitically live within large carrier organisms such as 'The Internet' and to feed dual-purpose parasitic and carrier organisms such as 'The Financial System'.

These entangled entities define norms and logical procedures that are entirely remote to human influence. Now, this is neither good nor bad, or something or anything else, it is just a fact that we need to acknowledge and address, to understand that we as animals, are mere functions in contemporary nature.

Today we obviously can not process information the way we imagine that we have been able to, this is also neither good nor bad or anything else. The speed has increased with the introduction of TCP/IP based networks and now, thanks to the drastic increase of network-usage by the human and machine population,

traditional methods of processing and interpreting information turn out to be insufficient and our sensory systems become irritated and confused.

Thanks to this, time and space have become totally irrelevant, especially if we look at how information is processed by contemporary machines and by children, they are individually, and sometimes clustered, inventing new languages and perspectives along the way. But, interestingly almost all machines show signs of exhaustion. Here we can see how important and influential machine-learning bias is and how potent adversarial machine learning will turn out to be. On the other hand, children seem capable of adapting swiftly and quickly by neural adaptation and by inventing their own hallucinated realities based on the technical environment and the merger between their needs and the offerings of their emotional and technical surroundings.

Now, looking back.. in recent decades we have combined affirmation strategies and experimental research. We then coupled the radical consequences of this merger with a high level of irresponsibility and published this as product of this god forbidden alliance. This automatically led to unintended subversion and partially uncomfortable output, although we are neutral, as in Switzerland and Austria neutral.

In alternative history, this path might have landed us right in the center of the Alt Right movement.

For example. The first street-gang on the Internet, the etoy.CORPORATION, a white male middle-european middle-class avantgarde tech-cult from the 1990s would mos def have ended up in today's Silicon Valley Manosphere. We were both naive but sensitive-intuitive test-pilots and experimenting opportunists anticipating and simulating corporate fascism and male techno-cults and we had a huge edge on so many upcoming developments.

I tend to compare etoy to the Futurist movement and its protagonists in the 1910s. The movements last convulsions portrayed a worn-out and old Marinetti entangled with Mussolini's fascist Realpolitik and State; hence transferring radical artistic research, hypothesis and test-drives into an overbearing and destructive political reality.

UBERMORGEN in the late 1990s and 2000s became an even more extreme experience. We were in parallel proximity and very much precursors for the Zeitgeist that was produced for contemporary society. Furthermore this co-produced the society that carries the Donald Trump phenomenon of today. We used and developed exactly the same methods of reality construction, newspeak, actionism, unpredictable agitation, disruption and became a membrane in various global mass media storms. As Trump understood and understands today and as we did and still do understand in parallel, there is no truth, there is no binary outside of the machine context and even inside the machine it all relies on our contextualization and interpretation, --- as Elie Ayache mentioned so beautifully in his invocation at the 1984 Unbound Conference at HKW in Berlin December 2017.

So, UBERMORGEN and Trump agitated in various contemporary media and in classical mass media environments by using very similar techniques. These actions have to be understood and characterized as experimental, but they are spun by the individual needs, wants and curiosities of the humans behind those actions, but also by the various interests and agendas of the propagating media-channels, distributors and financial backers, these feedbacks can create beautiful experimental artistic realities and knowledge, but they can also violently accelerate political and military realities in directions that might turn out to be extremely volatile and very dangerous.

But still, we do love the volatility of it since we would rather go down having fun, being entertained and laughing than depressed, angry, tense and in fear.

So we have studied and had to study the underlying psychopathologies of ourselves as actors and of many others including the Trump clan. One can often find the Dark Triad, a vicious combination of three personality disorders: Psychopathy, Narcissism and Machiavellism or a combination of Narcissism and Bullying combined with extreme Hedonism. The most radical form is Malignant Narcissism, a completely different and highly damaging pathology containing an extreme mix of narcissism, antisocial behavior, aggression, and sadism. Often grandiose, and always ready to raise hostility levels, the malignant narcissist undermines families and organizations in which they are involved, and dehumanizes the people with whom they associate. #TrumpStyle.

And this brings us closer to Binary Primitivism...

Habitual media concepts as described by Wendy Chun, and biased machine-learning and ethical system-design described by Sarah Spiekermann are a huge challenge in male, competitive, money- and technology-driven environments harboring low empathy and narrow views by the male fascist or ignorant Asperger creators that define and design the social, financial and technological matrix we exist in.

This is a consequence of the 1948 and 1984 dichotomy that has become dangerous in various aspects, totally exposed and widely unprotected Europe has both accepted and has been forced to accept and adapt the philosophy of Silicon Valley and US-biased machines and algorithms.

While that happened we have harshly and indifferently criticized and laughed at China and Russia, at Egypt and Syria and many other countries that have regulated, censored, protected and fire-walled their networks while creating the basis and regulatory environment for their own networked human-machine-ecology. Today we are the fucked ones, but it seems as if we choose to ignore that we are fucked.

But be assured, it is imperative to not follow the free speech ideology but to collectively struggle to decide on hurtful measures to at least spin and switch aspects of our already out control environment.

So... Je suis pas Charlier! -- most definitely not..

And now, to something completely connected...

Because of our understanding of the physical universe as unified - based on laws and repeatable verifiable patterns - it is both imperative and immaterial that humans and machines are not falling for the synthetic, ideological and arbitrary separation between matter and antimatter, human and machine and Pre-Internet and Post-Internet.

The basis of theoretical art is the existence of immateriality in art going beyond matter, code, ideas and concepts, to a higher understanding of the underlying rules and patterns of the artistic universe; and on to formulate a universal theory based on models and abstractions that may include formulas of subversion, affirmation, aesthetics, intuition and other parameters.

Now this sounds like a very male venture to me.. I don't know... It probably is, and maybe not.. But, what i know for sure, is, that today's art establishment and its institutions have become self-referential and strongly aligned with expectations, they are hermetic by nature, and such systems create incest and repetition. So obviously they are desperately trying to reach and mine other fields such as science, technology, forensics, architecture and politics just to name a few, but they have failed in a rather unspectacular fashion due to the inherent structures, interests and ideologies carried by their show runners and owners.

The public and private institutions and interfacing key actors have become mere gatekeepers or turned into archival, marketing and value generating functions,

some sort of unregulated conservative and neo-reactionary global financial mesh of boredom and perversion.

This development grew parallel to the realization that the ideological separation between the analog and the digital world have no basis in our consensual hallucinations anymore. Now it is time to go beyond the current dogma and skip the rotten art system, it is the right time to take the next step in the evolution of art and leave all these fucking objects, files, happenings, ideas and concepts behind and form new markets and build theoretical models, diagrammatical universes and new forms of aesthetic abstractions - or unknown levels of concreteness - that fit into the current overall theory...

We urgently need psychopaths to selfishly venture into new territories, this is also very true in the field of theoretical art and the revolutionizing of what we call the art market. But we will get hurt, since psychopaths have a tragic tendency to create high levels of violence, pain and destruction in our societies.

Palaeo-geneticist Svante Pääbo mentioned that we as Homo Sapiens might just be a bit more crazy than any other species and that this gives us a tiny but game-changing evolutionary edge...

The most extreme and prominent form of such a self-entitled super human is incorporated in Silicon Valley Venture Capital and NRx Think Tank founder Peter Thiel. He is a central figure in this dominant self-proclaimed new white male supreme race that is rather swiftly taking over control of our lives. The ideas proposed by the pioneers of Transhumanism and the idea of a Singularity are no longer abstract theoretical musings but are being embedded into emerging technologies at places like Google, Apple, Tesla, Uber and SpaceX.

In the US and Europe corrupt and dysfunctional governments are incapable of dealing with these realities. And while we still marvel at the past glory of the US;

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we insult China and Russia for their efforts to fight off infiltration and to strengthen the state against corporate influence...

Now, this is the end of my mansplaining ego-rant.. lizvix, my UBERMORGEN partner in crime, would have done it so very differently and so much better... Always.. I would have hated what she had to say but at the same time loved to listen to her...

Hans Bernhard
London, January 2018

This text was performed at Royal College of Art, Visual Cultures Lecture Series: Entanglement Research Group. 25 January 2018 | 6.30pm – 9pm with Leo Costner / Amir George / Manu Luksch / Martin Reinhart / UBERMORGEN. Organised by: Johnny Golding, Aura Satz, Margarita Gluzberg and Nigel Rolfe.

The Lecture is based on a Invocation by UBERMORGEN, held at HKW Berlin for the '1948 Unbound' Conference, Nov 30–Dec 2, 2017, Switches Discursive installation, Thursday, Nov 30, 7 pm, with Morehshin Allahyari, Marie-Luise Angerer, Elie Ayache, Anna Echterhölter, Thomas Feuerstein, Alexander R. Galloway, Johnny Golding, Orit Halpern, Marian Kaiser, Giuseppe Longo, Gerald Nestler, Julian Oliver, Sophia Roosth, Sarah Sharma, Felix Stalder, UBERMORGEN