

A '*Performing Robots*' Presentation

Absurd Robotics *a genre*

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Talkpoints (Not in Order*)

01

What?

What do we mean when we say 'Absurd Robotics'?

02

Why?

Why should we care about and make these robots?

03

Who?

Who is currently successful in this space?

***we will be going back and forth a lot**

First - What do we mean by absurd?






amusing, ridiculous, unreasonable, illogical



Robots With Faults as the Main Attraction



“Shitty Robots” – sloppy, hilarious,
barely functioning gizmos.



Robots With Faults as the Main Attraction





Absurd Robots are Performers on a New Type of Stage



Youtube, Tiktok, Twitch, Instagram, Facebook



The absurd robot as a digital entertainer.










Absurd Robots have a new audience.



This new digital audience seems to be accepting these robots and even suggesting further absurd robot ideas to the creators.



✦ Absurd Robots have a new,
participatory, audience. ✦



Blueburry Ruccoon 3 months ago

You should build a robot that just jiggles a mouse back and forth periodically so my computer screen won't time out and make me put my password in again.

Reply



✦ Absurd Robots have a new,
participatory, audience. ✦



✦ Absurd Robots have a new,
participatory, audience. ✦

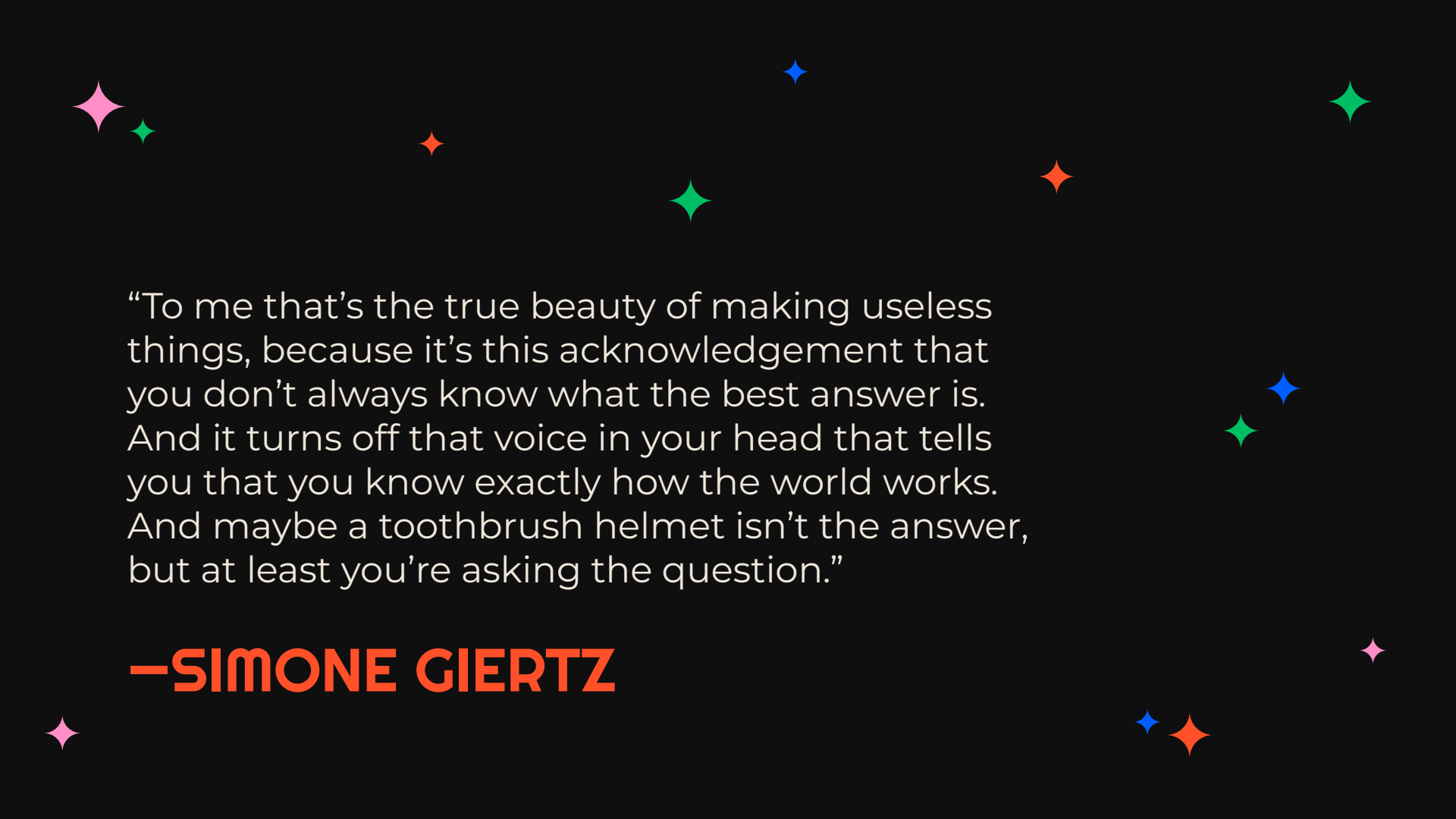


[MrAnderson](#) @NotSoBadSpec · 22 Oct 2018

Replying to [@michaelreeves08](#)









A roomba that swears and screams when it bumps into things





“To me that’s the true beauty of making useless things, because it’s this acknowledgement that you don’t always know what the best answer is. And it turns off that voice in your head that tells you that you know exactly how the world works. And maybe a toothbrush helmet isn’t the answer, but at least you’re asking the question.”

—SIMONE GIERTZ



**What are the materials that
help us put together absurd
robots?**



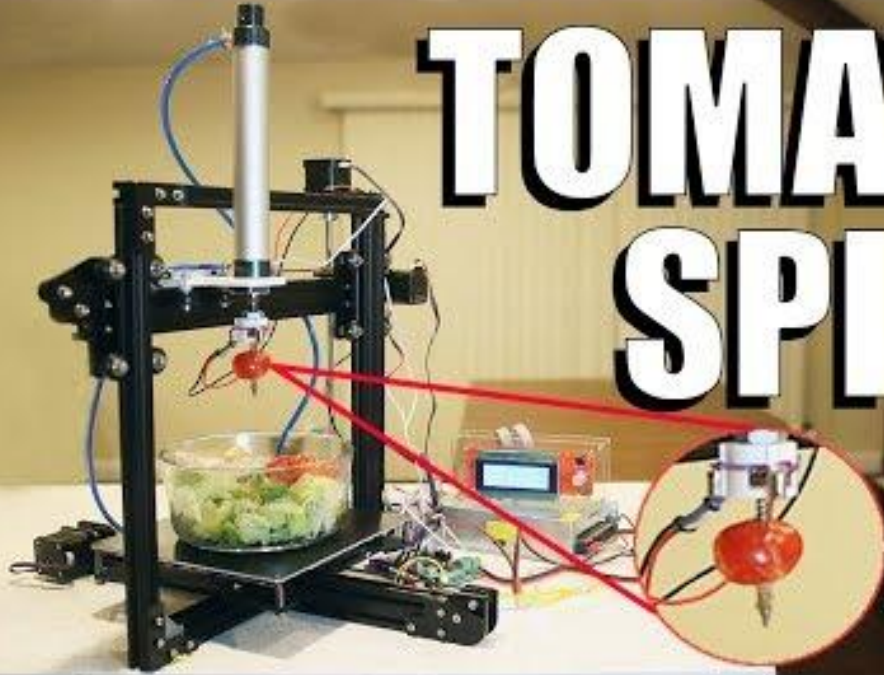
So, who is making these absurd robots?

Michael Reeves

- ♦ American Youtuber and content creator at OfflineTV.
- ♦ Dropped out of Arizona State University to pursue robotics and creative coding.



TOMATO SPIKE







Simone Giertz

- ◆ Swedish Inventor and Robot Maker.
- ◆ Dropped out of University to pursue creative work.



THE TOOTHBRUSH MACHINE



THE BREAKFAST MACHINE





Mark Rober

- ♦ American Youtuber, ex-Nasa Engineer.
- ♦ Has a masters from USC.

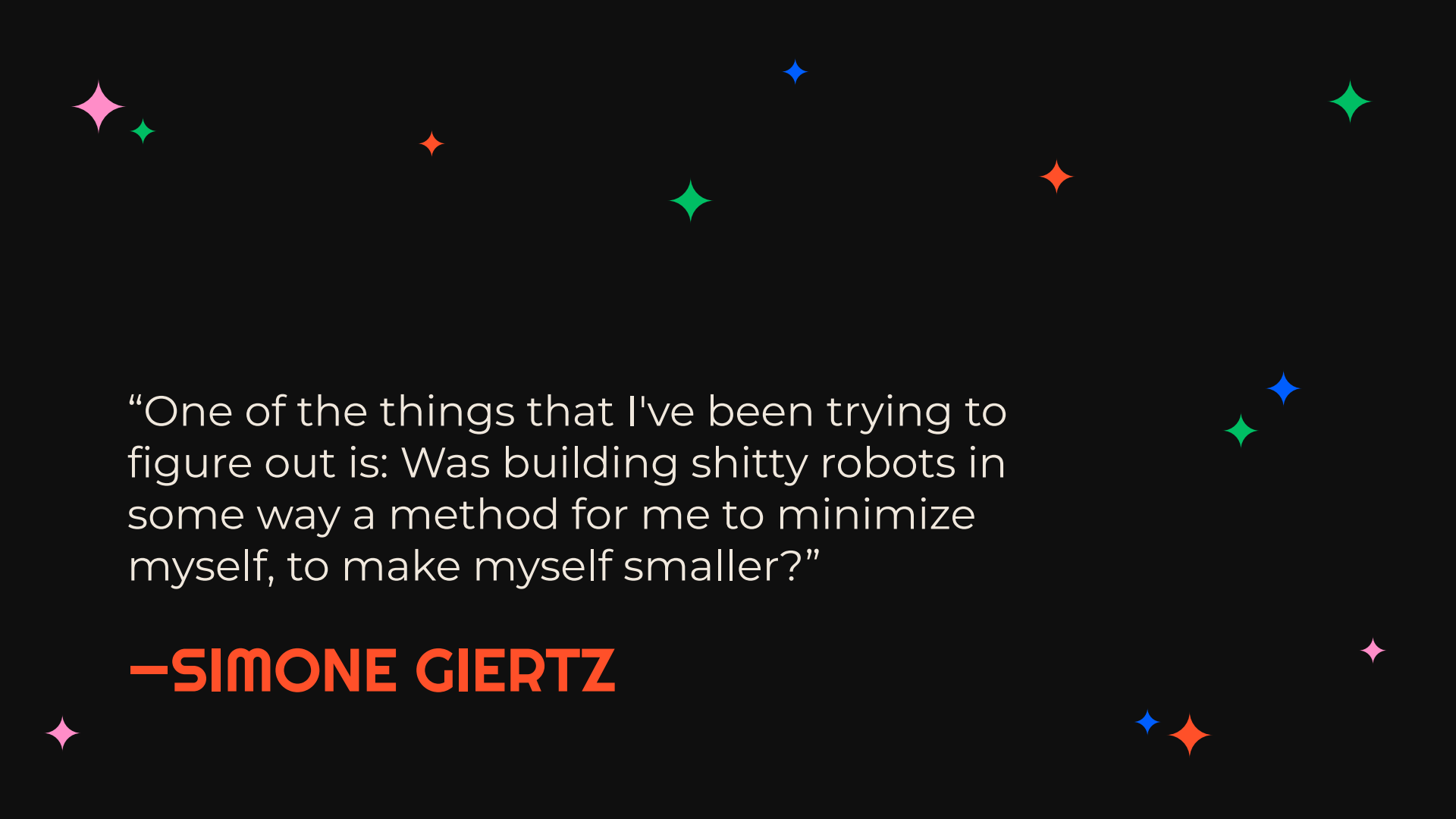




Questions + Discussion Points

Absurd Robotics

- ◆ General Observations/ Points that you would like to discuss?
- ◆ What, if anything, does this field of robot making contribute to robotics research in general? What sort of purpose might you say it serves?
- ◆ What kind of Absurd Robot do you think you will be interested in making?
- ◆ Do you agree with the following statement? Will every “shitty robot” maker eventually want to move to creating something more practical?



“One of the things that I've been trying to figure out is: Was building shitty robots in some way a method for me to minimize myself, to make myself smaller?”

—SIMONE GIERTZ



RESOURCES



Articles & Other Relevant Links

- ◆ <https://listverse.com/2020/12/23/top-10-absurd-robots-that-scientists-have-actually-built/>
- ◆ <https://twentyonetoys.com/blogs/learning-from-failure/simone-giertz-useless-robots-brain-tumor>
- ◆ <https://www.wired.com/story/simone-giertz-build-what-you-want/>

Video Links

- ◆ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrrs9LGIfyQ>
 - ◆ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_BINA7bBxo
 - ◆ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2evC2xTNWg>
 - ◆ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqsy9Wtr1qE>
 - ◆ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5d02U5YYfk>
 - ◆ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1dWbiXnz_s
 - ◆ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu3p5ZR_i5s
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