

# Creative Portfolio

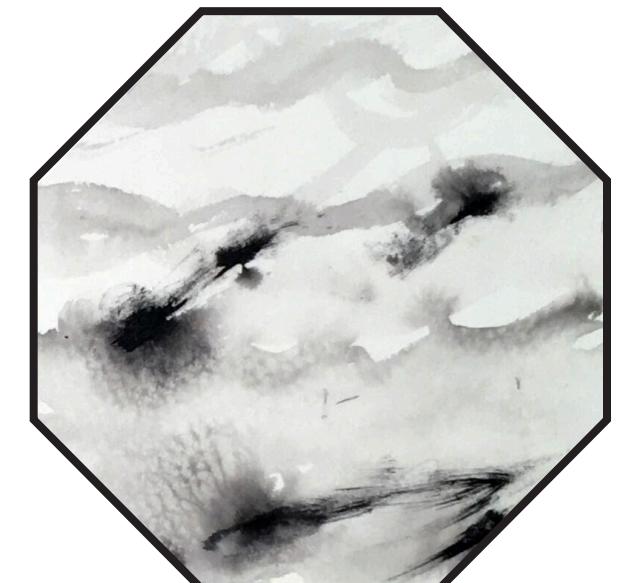
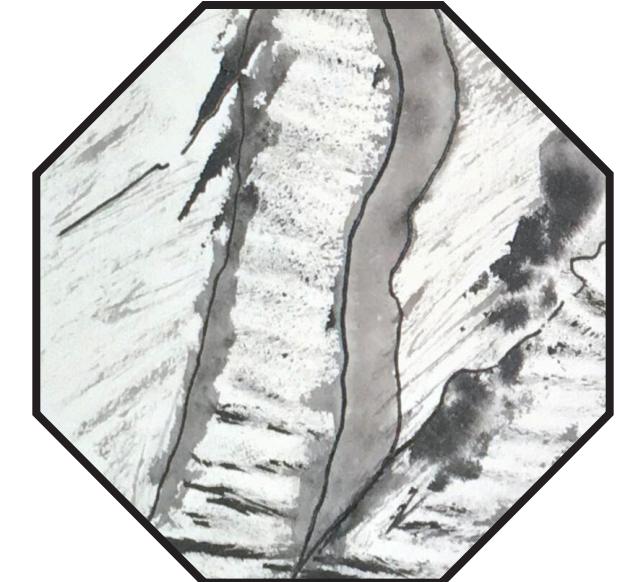
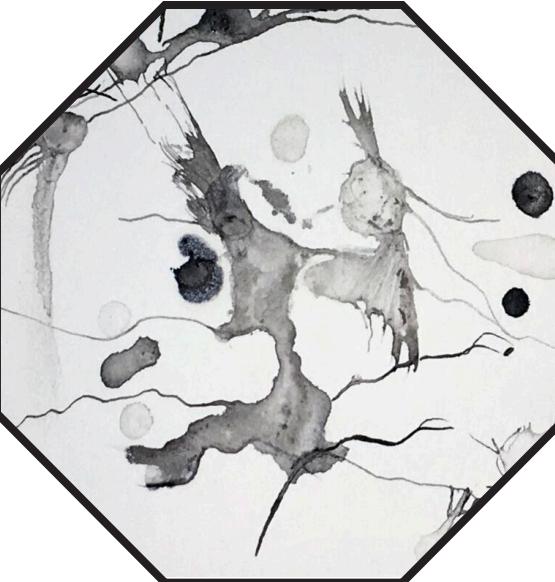
## Jared Katzman

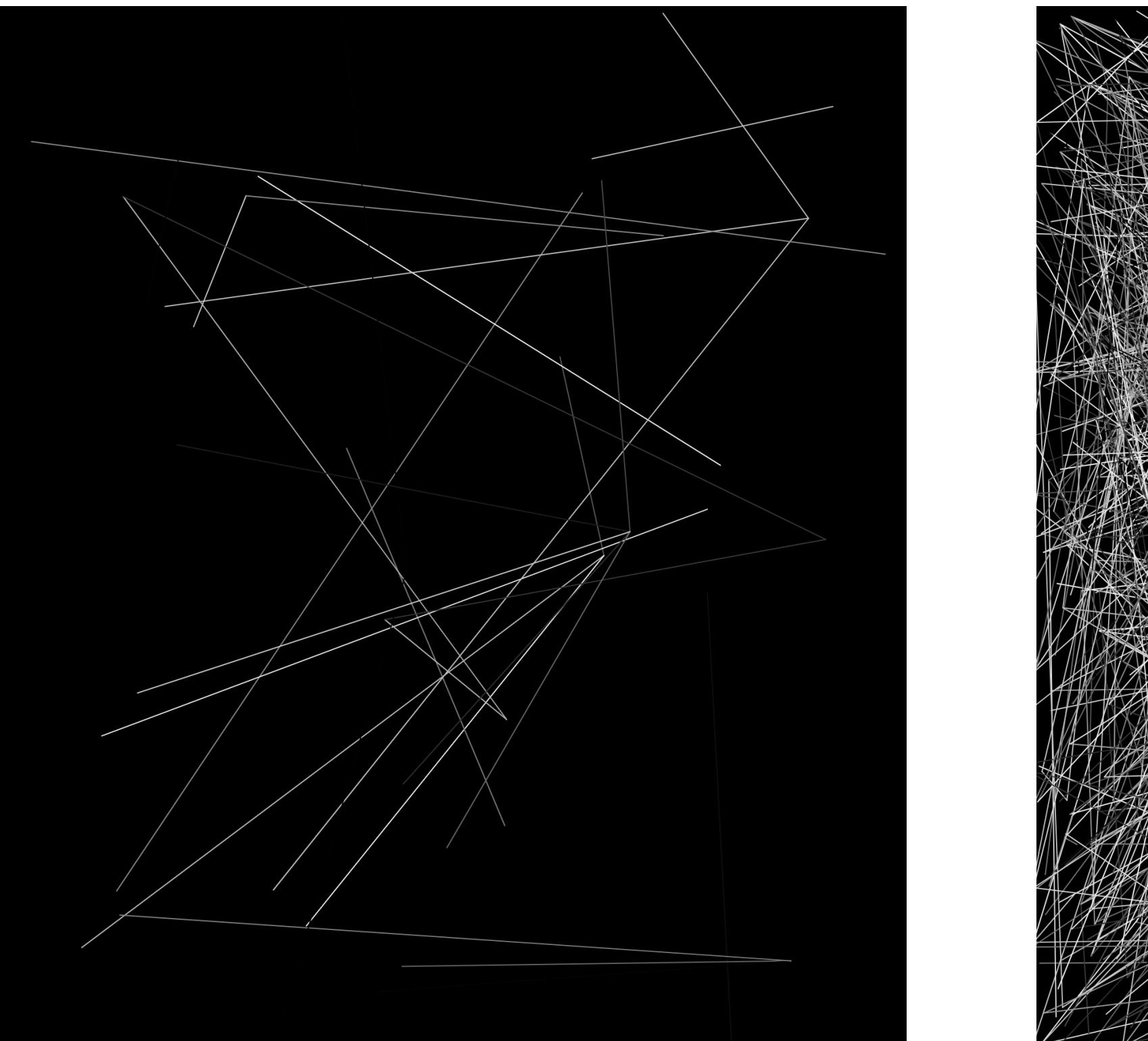
---

Algorithmic injustices are pervasive: hiring systems prioritizing applications based on gender, algorithmic risk assessments discriminating on race, automation resulting in greater economic inequality. The potential harms of technology betray the need for a more socially-just, equitable-minded, and responsible-first practice of building technology.

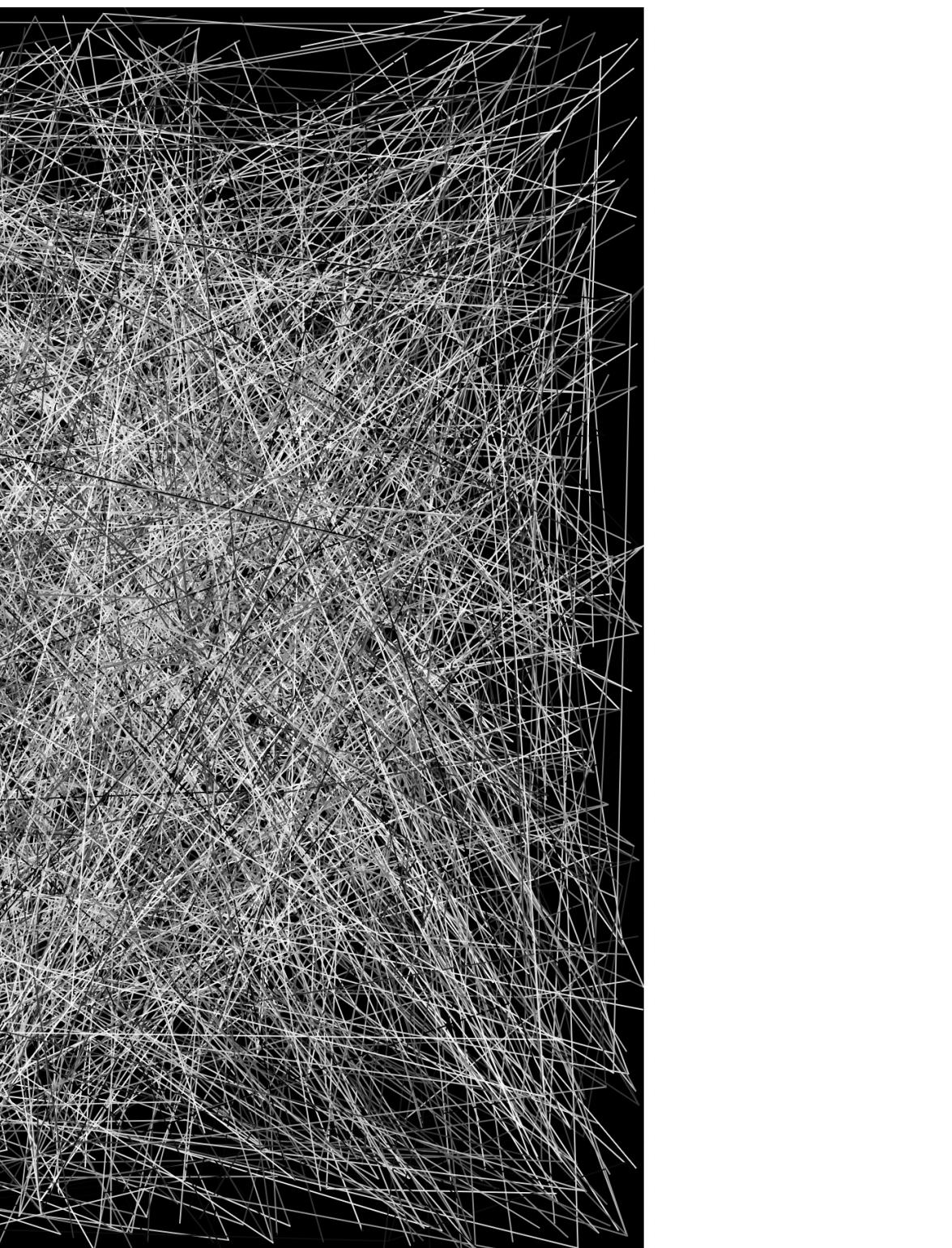
This work is my attempt to reclaim the role technology has in larger societal progress. Inspired by “Roles for Computing in Social Change” by Abebe et al. (2020), I weave algorithms with generative art as a means to reflect on how we build technology and what it says about society. I aspire for more conversations, less solutions, and new insights.

This supplement is an excerpt of art pieces from my portfolio that illustrate this work.





Number of Meetings: 50  
Number of Sexist Comments: 18



Number of Meetings: 1500  
Number of Sexist Comments: 1598

# Computational Justice

## COMPUTING AS REBUTTAL

Companies are quick to institute ‘diversity’ initiatives without evaluating whether they bring about structural change to their culture.

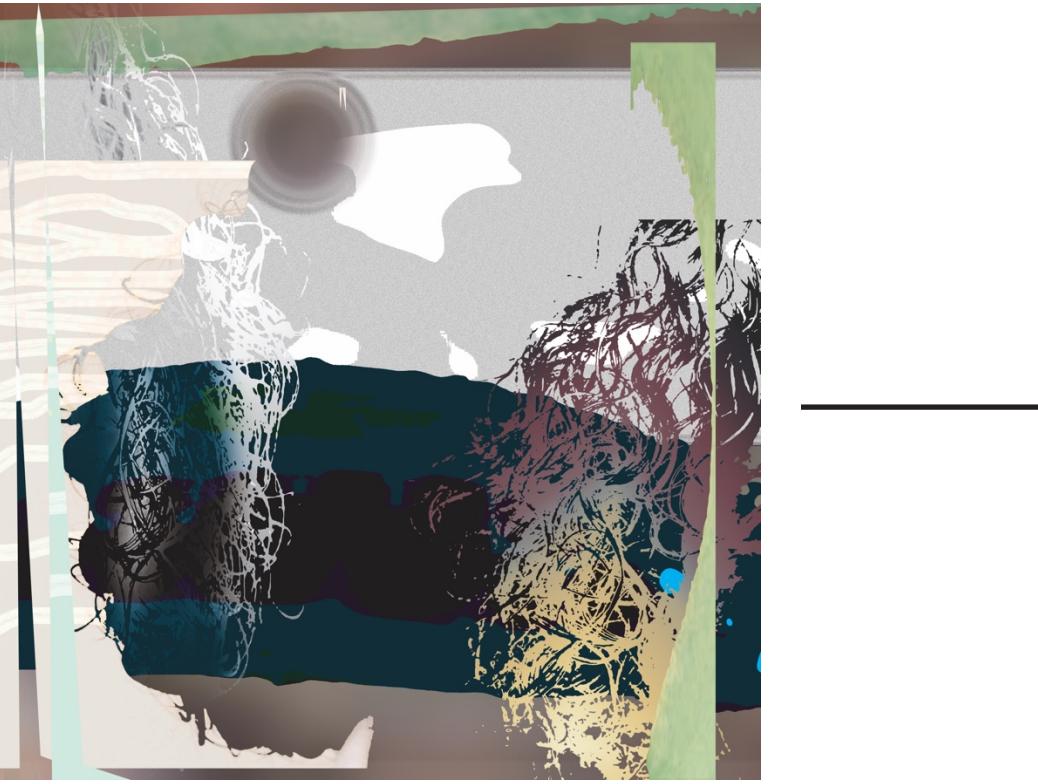
Computational Justice is a generative art piece which explores the ways institutions fail to address systemic sexism in the workplace.

This work produces visuals based on code derived from “Computational Justice: Simulating Structural Bias and Interventions.” Simulating how sexism spreads through social learning in small meetings, Momennejad et al. (2019) show how initiatives, such as affirmative action, fall short. Remediating the toll on gendered minorities requires changes in how people confront sexist comments. Translating simulated remarks to lines between perpetrators and victims, I trace how systemic sexism consumes a workplace’s culture.

This work is an ongoing exploration from my membership in the 2020 NEW INC program. By visualizing these technical simulations for the public, this work promotes deeper conversations around how to sustainably reduce sexism in the workplace.

---

“Computing can clarify the limits of technical interventions, and of policies premised on them”  
Abebe et al. “Roles for Computing in Social Change.” (2020)



a person holding a pair of scissors in their hands .

The first time I saw this was when my friend and I were at the beach on our way to visit his family in New York City , we stopped by an old man who had been cutting up some fish for years .

He told us that he used to cut it with these scissors every day until one day he decided not to anymore because they hurt too much . We asked him why he didn't use them any more ? " Because you're getting older ! You 've got kids now ! " And then he started laughing uncontrollably . It 's like someone is trying to tell me something but just can't get through all those words so instead they say things like : " Well , if your wife does n't want to have sex with you she can go fuck herself ! " or even worse : " If her husband wants to sleep around with other women he should do it himself ! " ( which would be hilarious except that there are no such thing as men sleeping around ) .

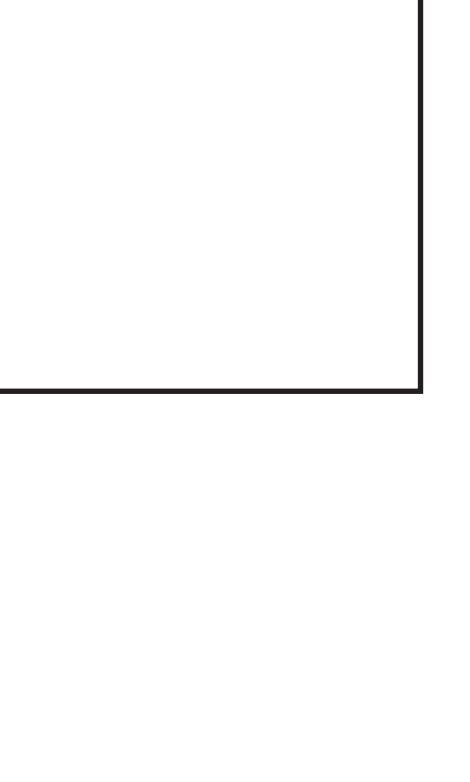
This guy has probably never heard about masturbation before either . So what happens here ? Is it possible that people actually believe this stuff ? Or maybe its just how they talk ? But anyway ...

a close up of a pair of scissors on a wooden table

in the middle of the room. The man was standing with his back to it, and he had just cut off one end of an old silk handkerchief. He looked at it for some time, then put down the scissors, picked up another handkerchief,

which lay beside him, took out another, and, after carefully examining them, laid them together again. Then he turned round again, and stood by the table, looking intently into my face. I could see that he did not know me, but there were two things about him which made me feel sure that he did. One was, that, though he wore no beard, yet his face seemed very much like a woman's.

His eyes were large and black, and they flashed as if from under bushy brows, while his mouth was small and rather thick. There was something so strange and uncanny about this man, who sat there, watching us intently, that I felt quite frightened. It is true that I knew nothing whatever about him; but, nevertheless, I thought that I should be able to recognise him. As soon as we got outside the door he began talking to me. "I am going to take you home now," said he. "You will find your way here all right. You are too young to go alone, and besides, you have been away"



# Mutual Wayfinding

## COMPUTING AS DIAGNOSTIC

How does the Internet influence our psyches?

How does it move beyond the screen into our physical world?

Mutual Wayfinding is a process for examining how the digital blurs into our internal-psychological and external-physical worlds.

Abstract paintings are fed into a neural network to generate a story, which is then interpreted into a photograph that becomes the seed for a new passage. This feedback loop exaggerates subtle shifts to explore how information from the Internet is produced and consumed.

This work is in collaboration with artists Terrill Warrenburg and Amanda Suarez who provided the abstract paintings and photographic interpretations, respectively.

# Mutual Wayfinding II

## REDDIT COMMENTS

**"I don't care about global warming  
People are huge hypocrites when it comes to global  
warming.**

**I'm constantly on the news, I see news sources, I listen to  
the same people, I read the same blogs, I feel the same  
way about the environment.**

**I think the earth is getting warmer due to some unknown  
force, and I believe that it IS a problem."**

*Generated from 922 posts about climate change from  
[/r/unpopularopinion](#)*

## SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

**"Sustainable development requires rapid,  
irreversible changes.' This is what the UNFCCC  
Conference of the Parties report. Climate change is a  
global commons problem. It expects and seeks  
effective policies which benefit all and all  
communities. The global mean temperature record  
has been instrumental in focusing attention on  
climate change and erroneous clustering of  
phenomena under the sun's power."**

*generated from 25,236 scientific articles on climate change  
from CORE*

## COMPUTING AS SYNECDOCHE

Mutual Wayfinding II is a generative text piece that interrogates how different online communities discuss pressing issues such as climate change.

Individual neural networks are trained on a curation of either news, forum comments, or scientific papers that discuss climate change. The generated text acts as a mirror for the aggregate voices present in each dataset. By juxtaposing the disparate discourses around a topic, Mutual Wayfinding II explores how digital worlds can diverge on controversial issues.

---

"Computing can foreground long-standing social problems in a new way"  
Abebe et al. "Roles for Computing in Social Change." (2020)

As a person, you've been very stable. In high school, I was incredibly unstable. My '15's were traumatic: I went to therapy only to leave school feeling undefended for life. My '20s were also utter chaos. I had my ups and downs, but I never wavered in my belief that what I went through was virtually nothing compared to the ups and down in my life.

I am 23 years old and identify as Female. My pronouns are She/her. Depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety. I was 16 when I was first diagnosed. It's been almost 8 years now. I've tried about different medications over the years. The first one I tried (Celexa) destroyed my appetite and made me lose 20 pounds in a month. I was already below a healthy weight range, and ended up looking rather like a skeleton. It took me years to regain the weight. Others tend to blend together in my memory.

Well, my father's death is starting to wear on my soul. For one thing, I'm a very nonconforming child. Second, I have OCD. So it's been a crazy crazy journey. It is intense. I try not to overreact to emotions. I try to be nonjudgmental. I try to be kind.

Generated from 25 interview responses on experiences with mental health

My parents aren't emotionally supportive, and so from a young age I learned to swallow entire syllables in frustration. Crying in my house was not allowed, and if you did, it was considered a weakness and a suicide. At 13, I was forced to scavenge the calories in my diet, only to relapse when I became ill. That was traumatic and it is embedded deeply in my culture of parent and child. The mental health care system does not and does not respect my uniqueness, and I certainly have no claim on having any.

I went to therapy for 5 years, but after a traumatic experience found it too difficult to keep going.  
I know I'll go back at some point.

When you're a man, when you're a man, you're a man and you're a man. You're a man and you're a man, and you're a man. You can be a man, you can be a man, you can be a man. And that's what you do. If you're a man, you're a man, you're a man.  
There's no God. There's no God. There's no God. There's no God. We're all man, man, God. The only God is you. He's one of us. And there's no God. There's no God.  
Evil is one;

# Ring of Keys Cabaret

## COMPUTING AS FORMALIZER

When the Quintessence of Dust theater company put on a cabaret with songs written from source material on individuals' struggles with mental health, no one who was interviewed showed up to the performance. Each one cited that they did not want to risk seeing their trauma displayed on stage.

Ring of Keys Cabaret is a collaboration with NYC play-write Rachel Kunstadt that aims to break the stigma of mental health in the LGBTQ+ community. An AI is trained on interviews with LGBTQ+ individuals, and through the 'strength in numbers', generalizes across responses so that no one story is ever on display. Turning classical views of privacy-breaching algorithms up-side down, we explore how technology can protect stories rather than exploit them.

This work was developed at the New York Live Arts ACT Labs Live Ideas 2019 and received first-place runner up in the HACK-ART-THON.

"Computing requires explicit specification of inputs and goals, and can shape how social problems are understood"  
Abebe et al. "Roles for Computing in Social Change." (2020)