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Thoughts on Hito Steyerl | Politics of Post-Representation

For this reading we read an interview on *Discover* between Marvin Jordan and Hito Steyerl entitled P*olitics of Post-Representation*. This reading was more challenging for me to get through, I had to read it a couple times before I could process entirely what was being said. Prior to taking this course, I feel like I have been a bit naive about all the happenings of technology over the World Wide Web.

Reading this article made me realize jsut how weird it is that both parties in a conversation on social media can receive instant feedback now when they communicate with one another. If we didn't already struggle with feeling lonely/not as cool as everyone else we also can instantly obsess over why someone isn't readily responding to us. Since everything is now thrown open into the winds of social media, we have even more to be paranoid about. "Maybe it's because I posted that 60th shot of my breakfast today?" What's also peculiar is what was once reserved for SnapChat due to content of dubious nature, many apps also alert the other person if you take a screenshot. So even though this image was only shared with you, its shared on the comforts of, "This will expire in 5 seconds- 24 hours." Yet, on the other hand- possibly for an eternity in corporate caches and clouds. People might even be making a buck off of you and you don't even know or can't take a screenshot of your friends converxtaion without being perceived as a 'creep.' There is just so much irony in the concept. We are over here second guessing everything we do, we are compelled to share every mundane for human connection and we strive

for perfection perception. We are doing backflips towards the brink of insanity, but it's just another day in the business world for tech companies.

I appreciated that this interview brought us to Hito Steyerls piece *How Not To Be Seen: A Fucking Didactic Educational* which I found really fascinating. In this work, Steyerl covers her face with green paint against a green screen and as a result becomes physically lost inside the mediums of the internet and technology. As a society, many of us would like to pride ourselves about our indepence via meme or "motivational quote" via Facebook, yet are ultimately just completely surrendering our souls to these Consumer Giants. Not only is social media changing our mental hardwiring; it leaves us confused, lost and full of feelings of inadequacy but its tracking our every moves. As we have discussed in previous classes, we might be setting ourselves up for policing on our various activities we do with our friends. While we think we are seeking acceptance, we are really seeking social ostracization.