

## Intro

- Will Durant once wrote about how **civilization is built upon identity—the way we see ourselves and the way others perceive us**. In ancient times, people believed their identity was tied to masks. **In Greece, actors wore masks to transform into gods, warriors, or tragic heroes. In Africa, masks connected the living with spirits of the past.** But these masks weren't just costumes—they shaped how people understood themselves.
- Fast forward to today, and we no longer wear physical masks. Instead, we wear **digital ones**. Every day, AI, social media, and surveillance cameras **"analyze" our faces, classify us, and decide who we are**. But can a machine really capture something as complex as human identity?
- This is what my project, **"Reflections of Identity,"** explores. **It's an interactive experience where AI tries to "see" you—but does it truly understand you?**
- A ronin in feudal Japan is a masterless Samurai, a Samurai without a leader to protect and serve.

## Slide 1: Ronin

- In the image before you is a ronin:
- A ronin is warrior without a master, a masterless Samurai.
- A ronin would travel the country during the Feudal Japan era, offering his services to anyone in need of a sword to hire

## Slide 2: Yakuza

- A Yakuza is a member of Japan's Underworld.
- Mafia-like criminal organizations
- Yakuza adopt samurai-like rituals
- They engage in extortion, blackmail, smuggling, prostitution, drug trafficking, gambling
- The word Yakuza stands for "good for nothing"
- they are thought to have descended either from gangs of rōnin

## Slide 3: Identity

- "Echoes of the Past is an interactive experience that connects you to the past
- It merges AI with a **physical, large-scale environment**
- **When a person enters, the space analyzes their features and assigns them a historical identity.**
- **With AI-driven changes to lighting, sound, and set pieces,**
- **the environment shifts dynamically—transforming the visitor's surroundings into Feudal Japan."**

## Slide 6: How it would work

- The experience begins the moment a visitor steps inside.
- **Facial & Gesture Recognition:** AI scans the visitor's face and posture.
- **Role Assignment:** AI assigns a historical role.
- As an example a Yakuza is assigned a Ronin
- **Physical Transformations:** Movable walls, shifting projections, scent dispensers.
- **Creating a fully immersive, physical transformation of the environment."**

#### **SLide 7:**

- It is not a mere AI simulation
- Rather it is a real physical interaction with the environment

#### **SLide 8**

- **Sliding shoji doors**
- **A connection to the past**

#### **Haptic & Sensory Elements:**

- **Directional Floor Vibrations (SubPac or Bass Shakers) → Simulates footsteps, horse gallops, or distant battles.**
- **Scent Diffusers (Scentee Machina, Aroma Shooter) → Emits smells of incense, tea, blood, or rain.**

#### **Conclusion**