Student name: Terence Tang

Course: CART263

Subject: reflection 2

The studio I have chosen to reflect on is a studio called SOSO. The studio was founded at MIT and focuses on merging architecture, design, and software development. The vision of the studio is to place human experience at the center while developing creative projects. Most of their artworks are great examples of creating connections between space, humans, and technology. In many ways, these works are interactive. They may interact directly with viewers, with the space, or with unseen data. I find this concept very interesting—making invisible data visible in a highly aesthetic way. This idea also relates closely to what we've been exploring throughout the semester. In our class projects, we have been using various types of data. At first, they're just pure numbers, but as creative coders, we give them deeper meaning. We use data to either interact with participants or turn them into visual experiences. From this perspective, data are no longer just numbers— they become tools for art creation. Take my project as an example: I used an application called Zig Sim Pro to collect participants' movement data. I then used this data to make their movements interact with digital objects I created us This project helped me realize how important data can be in the world of digital art. It not only connects people to the work but also opens up new possibilities for creation—ones that traditional media alone could never achieve. Studios like SOSO inspire me because they are pushing these boundaries in both conceptual and technical ways. They are a reminder that technology, when used creatively, can deeply enrich the way we experience art and the world around us.

The work I have chosen to dive further into is an artwork called CSIS Data Chandelier. It is located in Washington, D.C., inside the headquarters of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. This installation consists of 425 individual lights hanging from the ceiling, forming a map of the world when viewed from below. The designers took various global datasets, such as :GDP growth rate, renewable water resources, and energy consumption, and transformed them into light patterns. Each dataset is represented through a unique lighting animation, which is then displayed through the chandelier's structure. This project is a powerful example of how creative coding can bridge the gap between invisible data and human experience. Without this installation, these numbers would simply remain hidden in spreadsheets or reports, and we will barely be realizing their existence. But here, they take on a physical form that is both

immersive and engaging. Viewers are able to *see* the data as moving light, allowing them to connect emotionally with abstract information they might otherwise ignore in their daily lives. Some might argue that the animations or patterns don't visually communicate the specifics of the data in a literal way. However, it's important to remember that this is, ultimately, a work of art. It is meant to be abstract. The point is not to present raw data but to evoke curiosity and reflection. What matters most is that the artists have creatively reimagined data as something alive, visible, and meaningful—something that lives within the space and invites interpretation. I personally find this concept very compelling, as it aligns with the idea that data can become a material for creative expression.