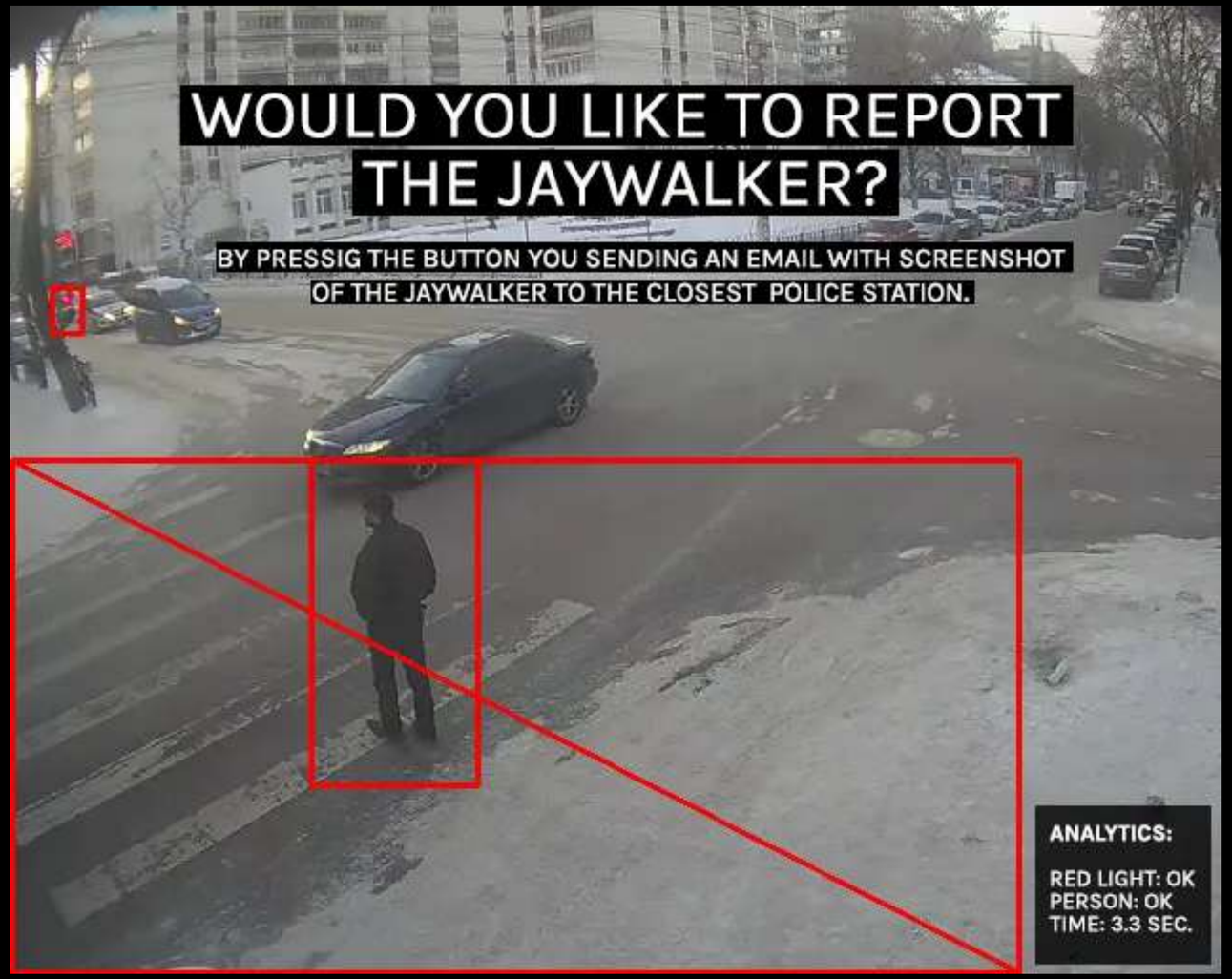

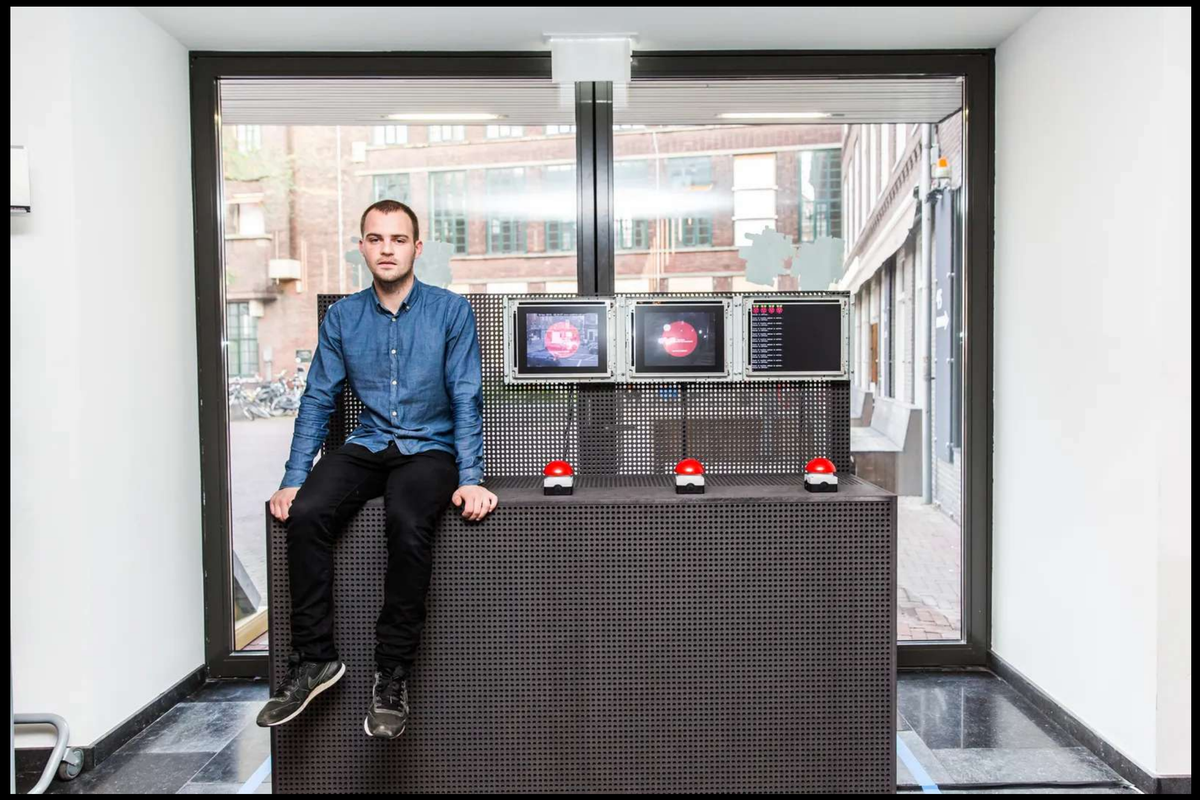

IN THE SMALL town of Fredericton, Canada, a woman crosses a quiet intersection in front of a church cathedral. Unbeknownst to her, a nearby webcam catches her in the street, along with the red light behind her—evidence of her crime.

The webcam's public feed, like thousands of others like it, is accessible to anyone who can find its URL with a Google search. At an art gallery thousands of miles away, a tiny Raspberry Pi computer is streaming the video to a monitor while it analyzes the footage with a simple computer vision algorithm. It instantly snitches, flashing, "WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPORT THE JAYWALKER?" on the screen. If you're a visitor at this gallery, you'll face a choice: hit a red button in front of the computer, and it will send a screenshot of the incident in an email to the nearest police precinct, potentially costing her a $42 fine. Or you can let the oblivious lawbreaker go on her way.

His ‘Nest’ series challenges us to rethink our ideas about privacy and security. Take Nest 05, for example, surveillance cameras are strategically anchored to ocean rocks, each with a unique focus. Over the years, Geltner’s installations and their creative placement have acted as societal litmus tests. They measure viewers’ reactions to the widespread use of technology in daily life.

Furthermore, Geltner’s work isn’t limited to just surveillance issues. Installations like Nest 02, 03, and 07 feature clusters of satellite dishes on buildings. In addition, these aren’t merely aesthetic add-ons; they push us to question our comfort level with tech that could be more harmful than helpful. Moreover, Nest 06 *(→)* showcases multiple cameras on a pole, leaning over a walkway and making each passerby an unwilling star. Thus, this intimate approach elevates the conversation about surveillance to new heights.

So, call it social critique or a wake-up call, Jakub Geltner’s art compels us to examine the technological maze we navigate daily. It’s a layered exploration of today’s complexities, urging us to be mindful of the technological future we’re shaping.

Border Birds, 2022-2024

Photographs of birds crossing borders captured with the help of open cameras and AI.

Project in collaboration with my sister Bieke Depoorter.

This was achieved by creating software that detects birds on footage captured by open surveillance cameras placed at boundary lines. The software used artificial intelligence running on a 24/7 server between the dates of March 10th and April 10th, 2022. The server captured more than 3,474 birds through multiple cameras around the world. Later, a curated selection of 100 Border Birds was made.

50% of the revenue from this project goes to European Network of Migrant Women and Red Cross supporting refugees.

The monitored cameras at the borders of Mexico/United States, Morocco/Spain, Greece/Turkey, and France/England.

I used a Nvidia Jetson Nano to be able to detect birds in images.

You can buy your very own ‘Border Bird’ in my webshop (since 14 Nov. 2022)

The Flemish Scrollers, 2021-2024

Automatically tagging Belgian politician when they use their phone on the daily livestreams. With the help of AI.

How does it work?

Every meeting of the flemish government in Belgium is live streamed on a youtube channel. When a livestream starts the software is searching for phones and tries to identify a distracted politician. This is done with the help of AI and face recognition. The video of the distracted politician are then posted to a Twitter and Instagram account with the politician tagged.

Surveillance Speaker, 2018-2024

Rotating camera that describes what it sees with the use of AI.

“Surveillance Speaker ” is an installation about surveillance and artificial intelligence. The artwork showcases in a critical way the latest breakthroughs in computer vision software.

“Surveillance Speaker” exists out of a camera, computer and speaker. Through the speaker we hear what the camera sees in a sentence that starts with “I see..”. For example: “I see 3 people in an exhibition watching paintings”. The audience can interact in a playful way how a computer can see. The Surveillance Speaker was exhibited in- and outdoor.

The Follower, 2023-2024 driesdepoorter

Using open cameras and AI to find how an Instagram photo is taken.

How does this work?

1. Recorded a selection of open cameras for weeks.
2. Scraped all Instagram photos tagged with the locations of the open cameras.
3. Software compares the Instagram with the recorded footage.

I launched the project on 12 September 2022. The YouTube video was just created with results of 10 days. I will publish new results on my socials.