

Techy Curtains

Each key has a cubical or cuboidal shape and at the back of it, it has a '+' shape so that it fits onto the circuit of keyboard.

This was my first experience using discarded computer parts to create art.

On daily basis, we use keyboards as a medium to interact with the computers but we forget the importance of it and discard it once they don't work.

So after giving a creative thought and being inspired by the works of Maurice Mbikayi and Chinmoy Pramanik, I got to know the use of keys on the keyboard as a medium of art.

And then I found a way of depicting it as a curtain so that we remember their importance.

Photograph by me



Experimentation with Keyboard Keys

Procedures and Experiences

1. Went online and searched for the E-Waste Market nearby in Bangalore.
2. After that I finalised some of the shops and then called up the shop i.e. E Waste Hub, Wilson Garden, Bangalore. I inquired about my requirements of keyboard keys for art purposes.
3. So I went to the shop and got 5 kilograms of keyboard keys @Rs. 200/kg. I took the help of the shop owner to pluck the keys out of the keyboard.
4. I also collected some unused keyboard from my father's office and some from the IT department in the school.

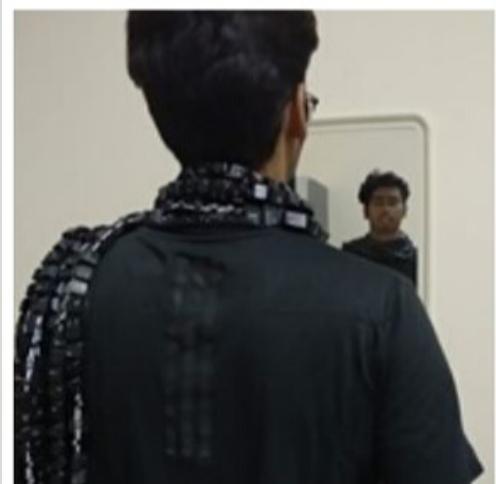
Use of threads to put the keys together in a straight line.

Use of glue gun to stick it so that the keys don't fall.

Experimentation with Keyboard Keys

Steps - Techy Tie:

1. I went to the lost and found section of my school to collect the old ties forgotten by students.
2. While plucking the keys from the keyboard, many keys didn't have a '+' like structure at the back. Since the cloth of the tie acted as the base for the keys, these types of keys were sorted out and was hence easy for me to paste using the glue gun.
3. The number of white keys were less than the black so, I thought of giving some design to the ties. The first four ties were made using a mixture of both the colours with two different designs, scattered and alternate colour bars. The next two ties were made using only black coloured keys.
4. To give a formal look, the ties were coloured - brown, deep green and deep blue.

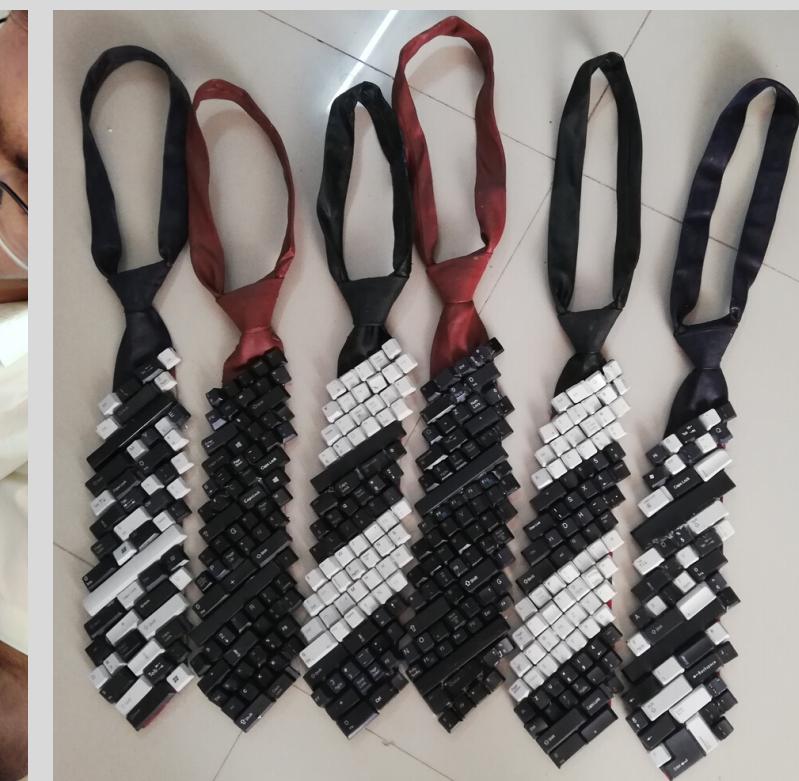


Photograph by me

Techy Scarf



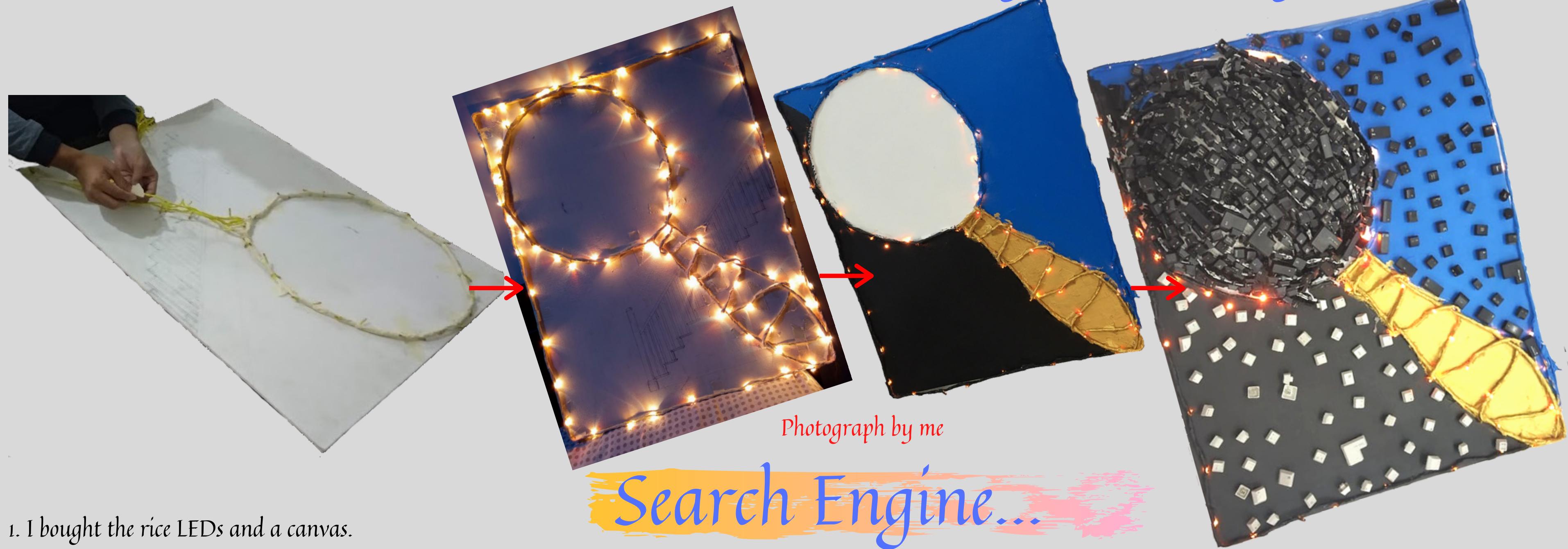
Photograph by me



Techy Tie

Similar to the curtains, this scarf was also knitted using the keyboard keys, thread and glue gun.

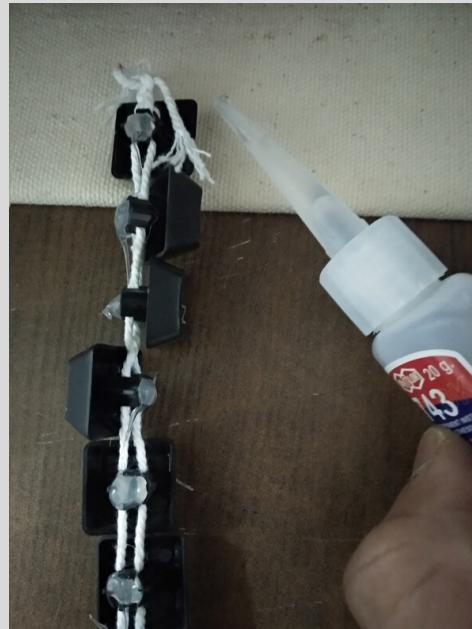
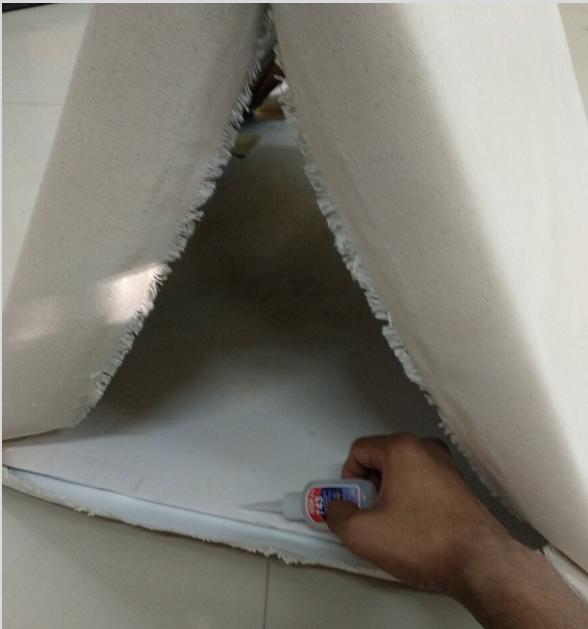
Experimentation with Keyboard Keys



Search Engine...

1. I bought the rice LEDs and a canvas.
 2. Made a round circular structure (similar to the glass in the magnifying glass or search icon) from the rice LEDs and stuck them using the white tape. Then made the structure of the handle and the rest of the rice LEDs was surrounded around the canvas.
 3. Painted half the canvas blue and the other half black, and the handle gold and left the circle blank.
 4. Placed a heap of keyboard keys in the circle of the search icon.
- With this artwork, I wanted to depict that, the magnifying glass is used as the search icon in a search engine. The heap of keyboard keys, depicts the records available for the search query. These records are filtered and sorted out by the search algorithm used by the search engine. The scattered keyboard keys, which lies outside the glass structure of the magnifying glass, are the records which are not related to the search query.

Experimentation with Keyboard Keys



Photograph by me

After trying different implementation of the keys, I was still left with some more keys.

But didn't had more ideas. And so, one day when I went for the IDP Education fair at Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore, I saw this ceiling hanging decor and was amazed after looking at this. This inspired me to make my ceiling light decor with the keys instead of those shiny balls.

Ceiling Hanging Light Decor

1. To make the hangings, the keys were knitted very similar to the curtains.
2. Took hard sheet and then cut it into three equal rectangular pieces. These pieces when then adjoined together, forming a prism.
3. The prism was then wrapped with canvas roll. And to stick the canvas roll to the hard sheet, Anabond was used so that it held firmly in place.
4. Those key hangings were then pasted from inside base of the triangle, four on each side.
5. Then the canvas roll was coloured blue (acrylic colour).
6. Then those hangings were joined and wrapped diagonally and it was pasted using glue gun and Anabond. A blue led strip was also aligned and pasted and the left over led strip was hung from the centre of the triangle.

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MI DUAL CAMERA

Artworks inspired by Maurice Mbikayi

The artworks in the above slides were produced after being inspired by the artworks done by Maurice Mbikayi.



MAURICE MBIKAYI

Maurice's primary reason for connecting African fashion to contemporary computer technology is that it involves Western products used in Africa in the sense of self-determination.

Maurice Mbikayi is a contemporary artist, who was born in Democratic Republic of Congo in the year 1974. These days, he lives and work in Cape Town, South Africa. He holds a graduate degree from the Academies des Beaux Arts in Kinshasa and a Master's degree from the Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town. Mbikayi was inspired when he visited a technician on regular basis to get his second-hand laptop repaired. There he saw the piles of discarded computer parts which looked like a sculpture installations and so he started collecting and storing them himself. In the process he started to question issues regarding contemporary information technology and the rapid change in the consumption of products as a result of rampant capitalism. He embodies hope for the future, where access to technology is more widespread in Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular.

<https://mauricembikayi.com/sculpture/>

BOON

The options which aid in easy communication like chat, voice and video calls on social media has brought us close.

People keep on updating every single moments of their life on the platform as feeds, posts and stories.

There are many groups made by teachers and professors, or by some specific community which extend their discussion, post assignments, tests & quizzes and also to assist the members of the group.

Social Media sites have become a good source for advertising and promoting the business, which in turn it help in selling the product world wide and making profit. This is called soical media marketing.

Social Media

People share posts without knowing the credibility and so much fake news and hoaxes don't take time to spread and convey wrong information, messages and thoughts in the community.

People waste their time simply scrolling over useless posts for just a few moments of fun while risking their work.

People have now become more attention seekers. After uploading a post, they are obsessed with assessing the amount of reaction/attention they get for the post, through the social media tools such as likes, comments and reactions.

An aggressive behavior that seeks to control or harm others through electronic medium is called Cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is becoming more common and unsurprisingly the most common way is the social media platform.

BAINE

SOCIAL MAZE

To what extent is our personal information hindered by an authority in the area of human sciences?



Medium used: Acrylic on canvas

This was my first canvas work with acrylic colours, where I wanted to exhibit the involvement of people and their time spent on social media sites.

Maze is considered as one of the mind games because of its confusing structure. In this game, one needs to find a way between the walls or hedges designed as puzzle.

Keyboards are used as a medium through which one can access and use these social media websites. The icons of social media and photo sharing sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest and Flickr are embedded on the keyboard keys which resembles how frequent we search these keywords on the search engines.

I have also used new technology like Adobe Photoshop for editing.

There are similarities which could be easily figured out while comparing maze with social media sites. I have mentioned some of them below.

1. Confused while making decision - In the case of maze, people get confused with the structure whereas in case of social media sites people are confused with many decisions, for example, people tend to think and get confused most of the times in choosing the photos which needs to be uploaded as their profile picture, or their post.
2. Loss of time - If the decision of the chosen path in maze is incorrect then the person needs to come back again and choose another path until it's correct. This indirectly would lead to loss of his/her time in finishing the maze. In social media people loose track of time by just scrolling over the posts and feeds, watching videos, chatting, commenting, etc.
3. Achieving a goal - In the case of maze, reaching the centre is considered as the goal whereas in social media sites there could be many goals which could be achieved, for example in the field of business, with the help of advertisements company promote their products which in turn it helps in selling the product world wide and making the profit (goal of the company).

When I went to the IT department, I saw many old non-working CRT monitors. They were just lying around. I asked for one of the monitors to the IT head.

Photograph by me



Then, I took the measurement of the space where the screen was placed and procured the mirror of that same measurement from the market. I placed and screwed it there.

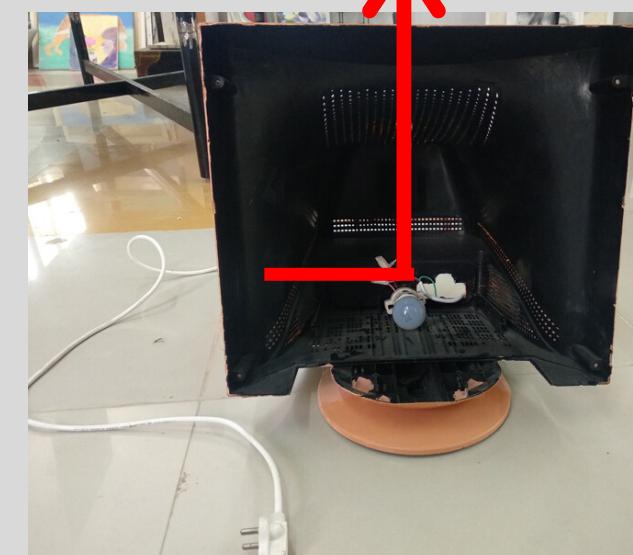
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Downloaded the Snapchat dog filter and then edited it using Adobe Photoshop. I made the background from white to black and increased the brightness and contrast.

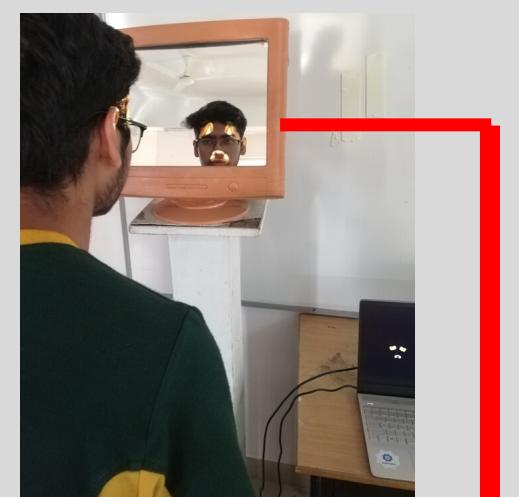
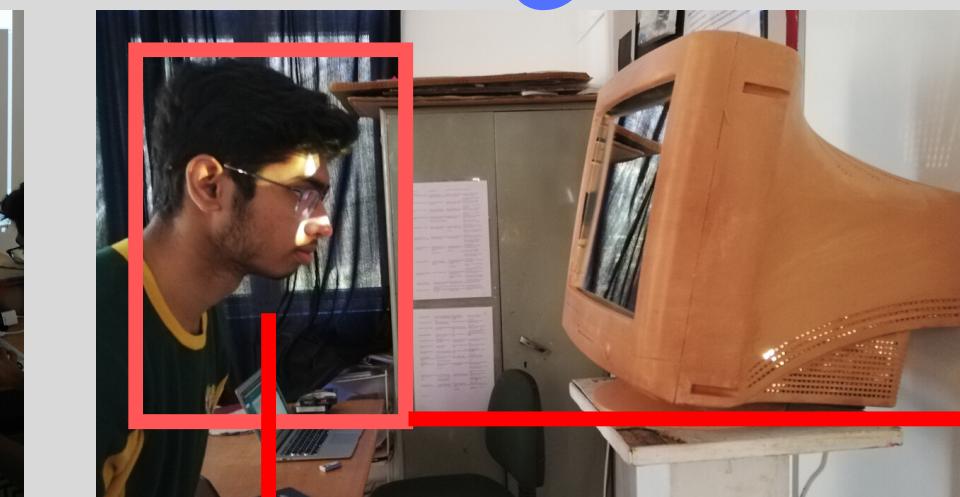
Connected my laptop to the projector and then adjusted and projected the edited dog filter picture onto the mirror.

The CRT monitors are heavy so, I opened all the screws and removed the Cathode-ray tube and the circuit to which it was connected from the inside.



I had a spare bulb with me, so I placed it into that empty space. Then coloured the outside with peach colour to give it a look of skin.

Mirroring Filters



Picture taken from front side

When anybody stands, looking into the mirror, the dog filter is then reflected back to his/her face from the mirror.

And then both combined together (the face and the filter) is again reflected back onto the mirror. This allows the person to see his face with the filter.

Social Media : Emoticons, symbols and abbreviations

Medium used: HB Pencils

Size: A1 sheet

I used compass to draw circles, starting from top left corner for the emoticons.

By referring to the emoticons available in Whatsapp, I drew the emotions in those circles.

Then, I drew the majorly used symbols, i.e., like, heart, hash and thumbs up larger than the emoticons.

Then to fill the spaces, I wrote the commonly used abbreviations inside the conversation box.

The meaning of the abbreviations are as follows :

NC - No comment

MTH - Month

SIS - Sister

FOMO - Fear of missing out

BRO - Brother

BRB - Be Right Back

HRU - How are you ?

AKA - Also Known As

STH - Something

OMG - Oh My God

LMAO - Laughing My Ass Off

UR - Your

ROFL - Rolling on the floor laughing

CU - See You

NP - No problem

ASAP - As soon as possible

TTYL - Talk To You Later

IMO - In My Opinion

BTW - By The Way

PLS - Please

LOL - Laughing out loud

TBH - To be honest

WKND - Weekend

MSG - Message

THX - Thanks

GM - Good Morning

NM - Never Mind

N/A - Not Applicable

JK - Just Kidding

DM - Direct Message

IMHO - In my humble opinion



Emoticons and symbols have become the eternal part of social media platforms. Through the use of these, people can express their feelings, and reactions.

Abbreviations and acronyms are shortened forms of words or phrases. They play a big role while chatting on social media platforms. It helps in reducing the effort of typing.

FB - Facebook

GRB - Grand Rose Band

FYI - For your information

IDC - I Don't Care

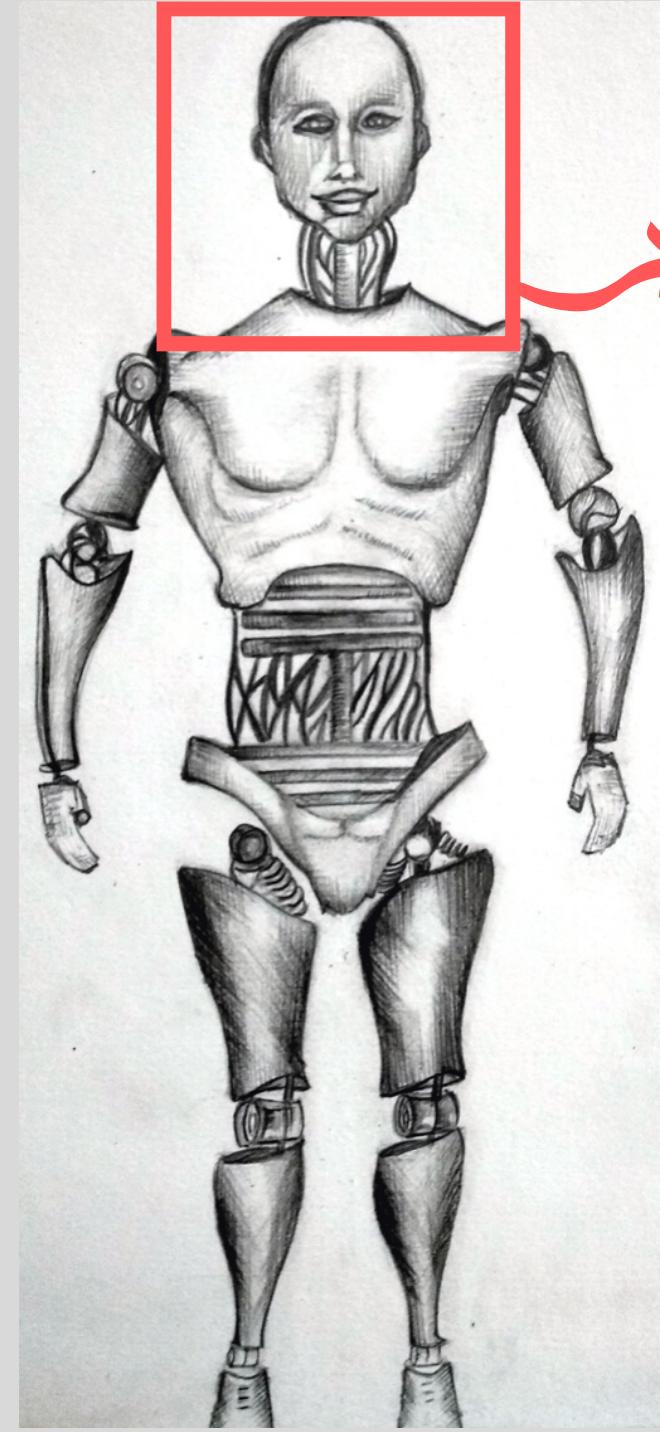
IDK - I don't know

BFF - Best friends forever

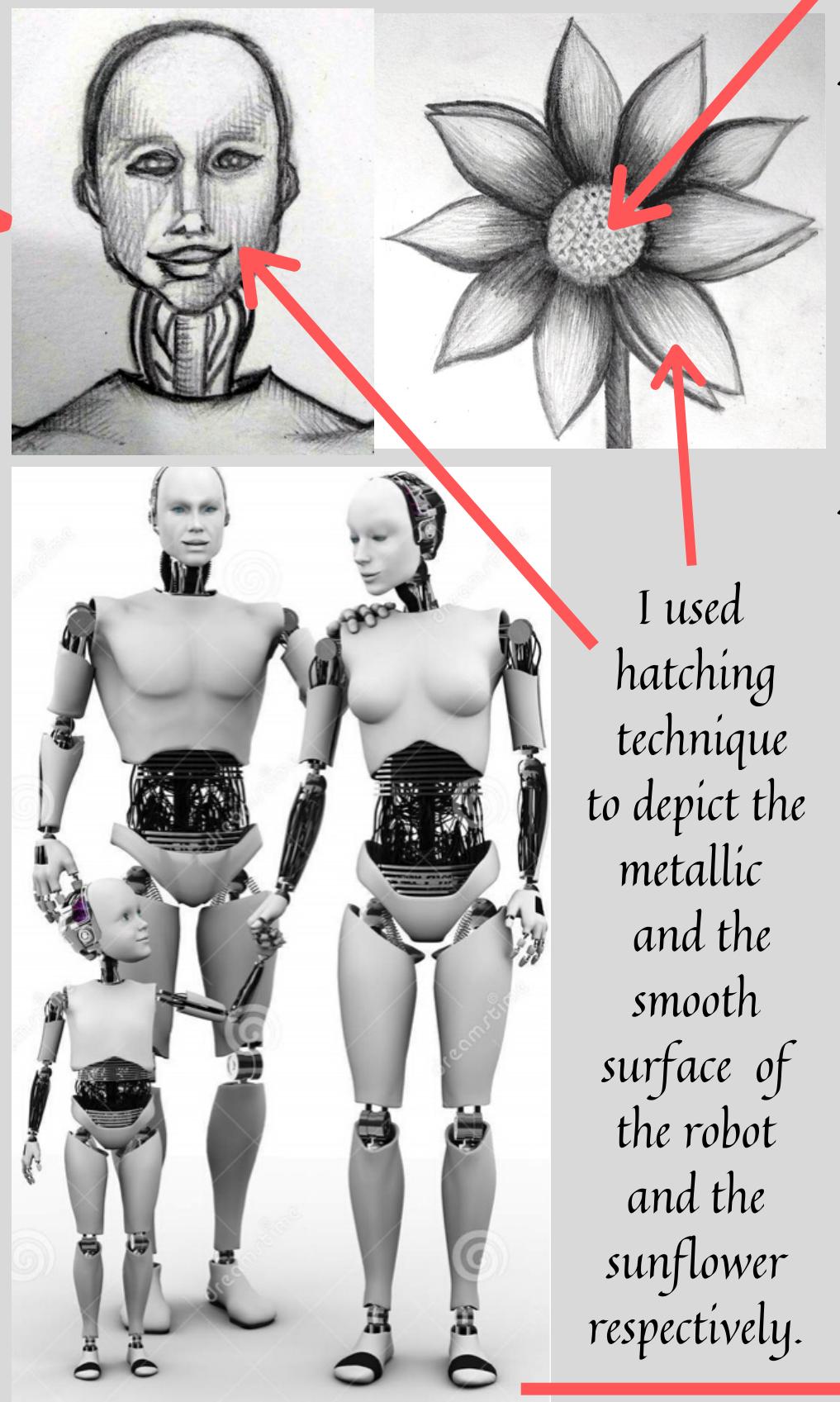
L8r - Later

B4 - Before

Human Depiction



Medium used : Graphite



I used hatching technique to depict the metallic and the smooth surface of the robot and the sunflower respectively.

The central part of the sunflower consists of small flowers called as disk flowers. To depict these disk flowers, I shaded that portion with the use of small dots whereas in the painting, I used brown colour to represent these disk flowers.

This painting depicts the significance of sunflowers and robots.

The yellow colour of petals in sunflowers symbolises happiness similar to that of smiley faced balls. It also symbolises friendship, vitality and intelligence. Sunflowers are life-like natural, and also portrays human through its tender and soft nature.

Robots are machines capable of doing tasks they are programmed to do. It is made of metals and plastics. And usually they have a greyish colour. Robots works with the help of different types of motors and other machinery parts. Robots are generally made to decrease human work load.

Both sunflowers and robots can perfectly describe the features of human beings.



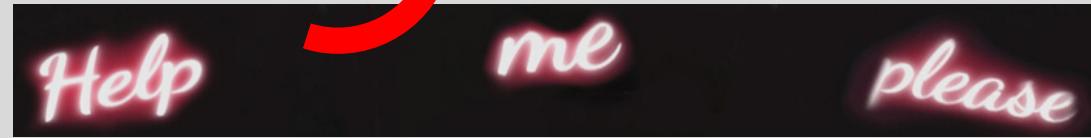
Medium used : Oil Colour on canvas



These are my reference picture which I used while producing this painting.

This is an installation cum sculpture artwork which consists of three similar monitors joined together. A keyboard is kept in the middle of the desk in front of the second monitor and a pair of sculpted hand rests on it. And this whole setup is chained with a long aluminium chain. Three words "Help me please" are projected on the three respective screens using a projector.

Help **me** **please**



With this artwork I wanted to depict how people in this 21st century have become slaves to technology, where people are chained to the keyboard and glued to the screen most of the times.

With the phrase 'Help me please' on the screen, I want to portray that not only humans but also the computer system needs rest and so therefore they are asking help from someone who can press the power off button for them.

This was the reference picture used for this installation artwork.



<https://www.slideshare.net/JorgeMorales124/improving-the-developer-experience-on-openshift-devconfindia18>



Photograph by me

When I went to buy a chain from the hardware store, the shopkeeper showed me different types of chain. I purposely chose the aluminium chain because of its shiny surface which will attract the viewer's eyes more and will hence depict the idea of the artwork.

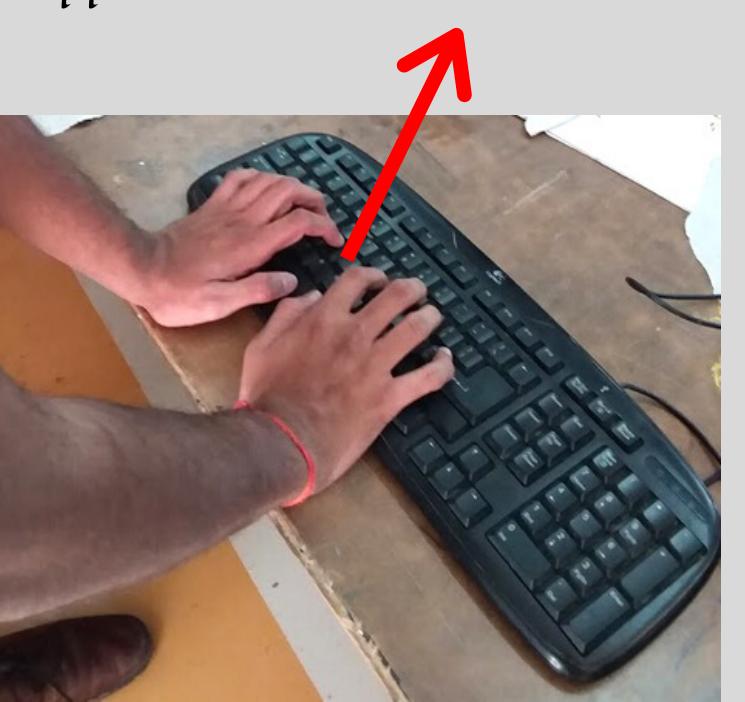


I procured these three non working monitors from my father's office.

I bought two pieces of those aluminium chains and tied the end of the first one with the second one with a thread. And then chained around the first screen, second screen, third screen respectively and then to both right and left wrist of the hands.

Does technology support or prevent us from accessing knowledge about the world?

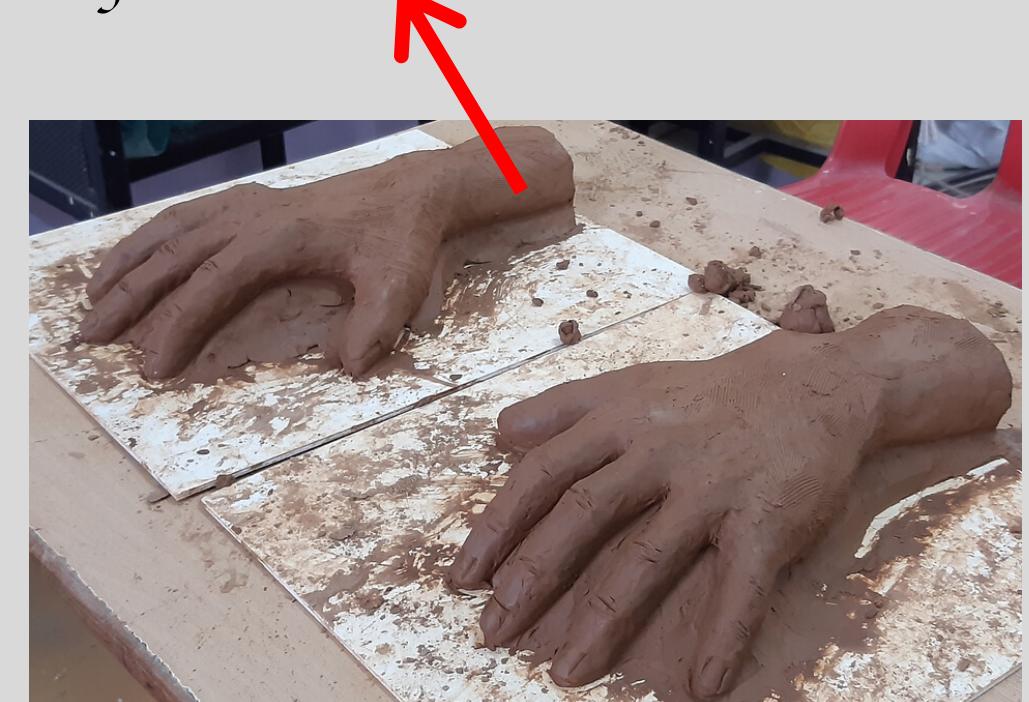
When we type ,we follow a posture, i.e., we have our five fingers open ready to hit a key on the keyboard and our wrists lie on the desk for support.



For reference, I asked my friend to click a picture in the same posture.



First for the right hand, I took some good amount of clay on the white cardboard and then moulded the hands by referring to the pictures which was taken by my friend. I used small wooden tools to carve the fingers and remove the extra clay. I did the same for the left hand.



I applied two layers of Plaster of Paris (POP) on the clay. First layer was made thin for getting the accurate shape and the details and then a thick layer was applied to make the first layer strong. Then kept it for around 4 hrs for drying. And then by flipping it upside down, the clay was removed and separated from the the POP.



Tech Slave - Hand Sculpting

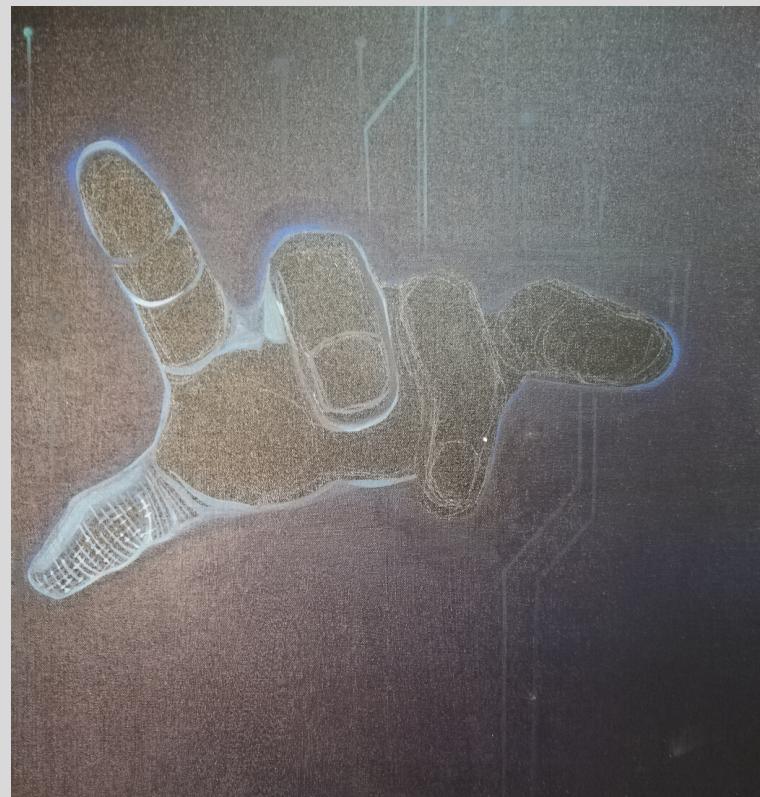
With the use of hammer, the Plaster of Paris was hammered and removed and the the hands were smoothen with the sand paper. The hands were then thickly colored for smoothness and then it was spray painted with brown and grey which made the hands look shiny.



After removing the clay, I applied Vaseline as a separator. And then prepared a mixture of resin and fibreglass (cobalt blue). Then, I poured a small amount of the mixture in a small container and again mixed it with an acid, which made the mixture hard. This was poured in the place of the clay (removed earlier). While applying this mixture, I also placed five small wires (from the five fingers to the palm) to give a skeletal support to the fibreglass. And then it was left for another hour so that it dries and become hard.



Fingster



Painting



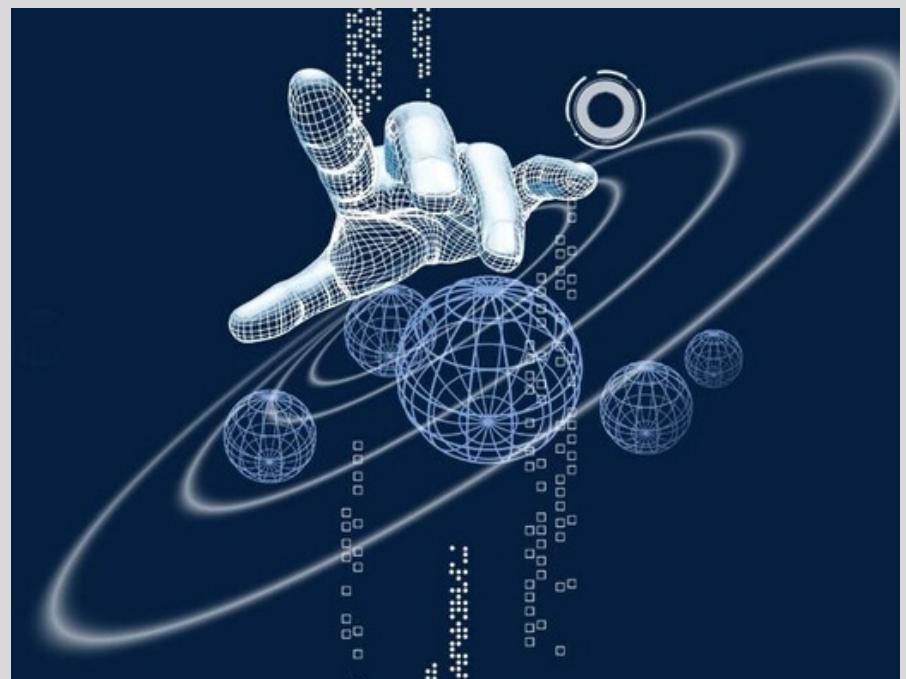
Front View



Top View



Side View



<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/782078291527831809/>

This is an installation which depicts the movement and the moving action of our hands while typing on keyboard. The installation creates an realistic atmosphere. The hands, specifically the spiral structure of the thumb, and the circuit background gives an electrified look to the installation.

I used the left image as the reference while drawing the hands.

Process :

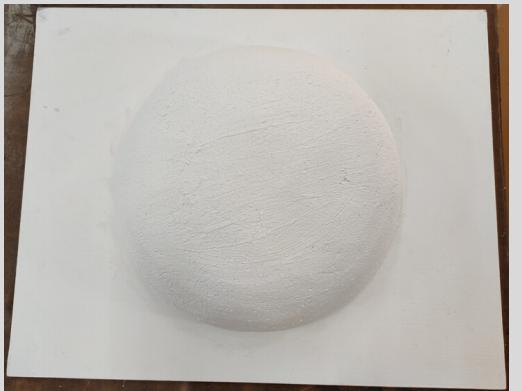
Firstly, I painted the canvas black and then sketched out the hands on it.

And then with the use of light blue, the hand was outlined and neon light effect was given to the hand. The thumb is given a spiral structure.

I drew few lines and dots as a representation of electronic circuit in the background.

I then kept a stick on top of the canvas. And with the help of aluminium chain I hung a keyboard.

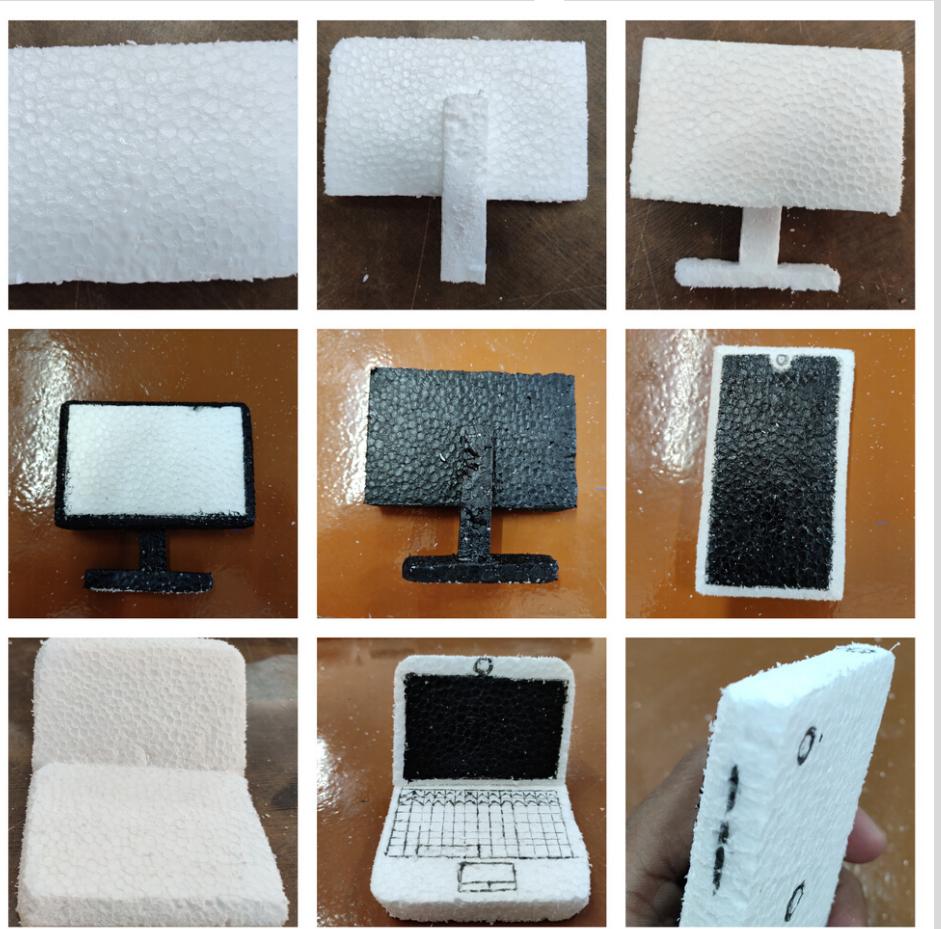
Global IT Influence



First to make a structure of the earth, I took a thick thermocol and then with the help of the thermocol cutter I cut it into circular shape. Then with the piece of small sand paper I smoothed the edges of the circle towards inside to get the hemispherical shape of the earth.



Pasted the hemisphere on the canvas and then painted the hemisphere white and the canvas black.



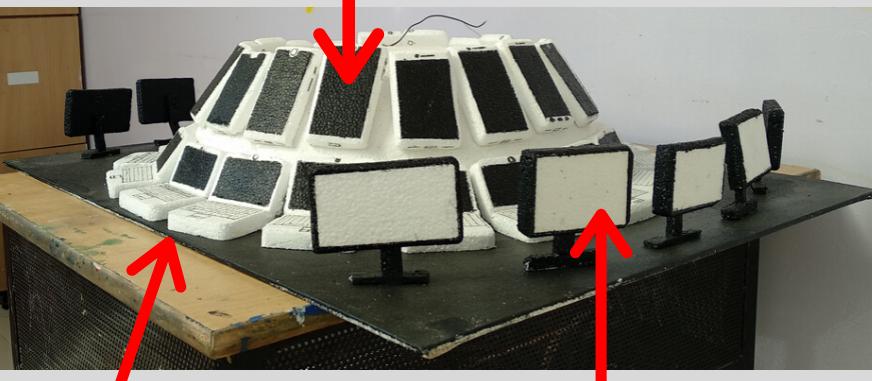
Took thin thermocol and cut the thermocol into small rectangular pieces. For laptops, I joined two of those rectangular pieces. And then painted the screen black and sketched out the keyboard keys and the touch pad.

For monitor, I took a rectangular piece then pasted two thin thermocol pieces perpendicular to each other from the back for the stand, and then painted the back, the bezel and the stand of the monitor.

For the smartphones I took the rectangular piece, painted the screen and then outlined the features of a phone.



Pasted the smartphones on the globe.



Pasted the laptops on the canvas around the globe.

Pasted the monitor in front of the laptop.

Pasted the CCTV cameras on each corners of the globe which looks like it is covering the entire globe.

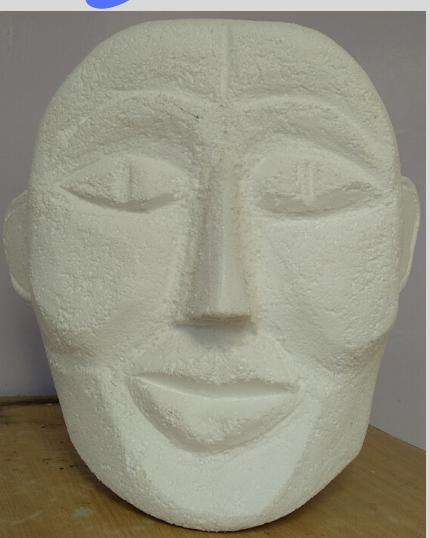


This is an installation which depicts that the earth is influenced widely and have been overflowed with the gadgets such as mobile phones, monitors, laptops, CCTV cameras, and many other electrical appliances.

I saw this post on Instagram by @thecybersecurityhub which said that the Russian president Vladimir Putin still uses obsolete Windows XP despite Microsoft no longer releasing updates for it since 2014. This post inspired me to make this installation, and hence depict that, using any kind of obsolete computer system or software is not secure and it opens a back door for any anonymous group or hackers and therefore end up risking resources and documents to fall in their hands.

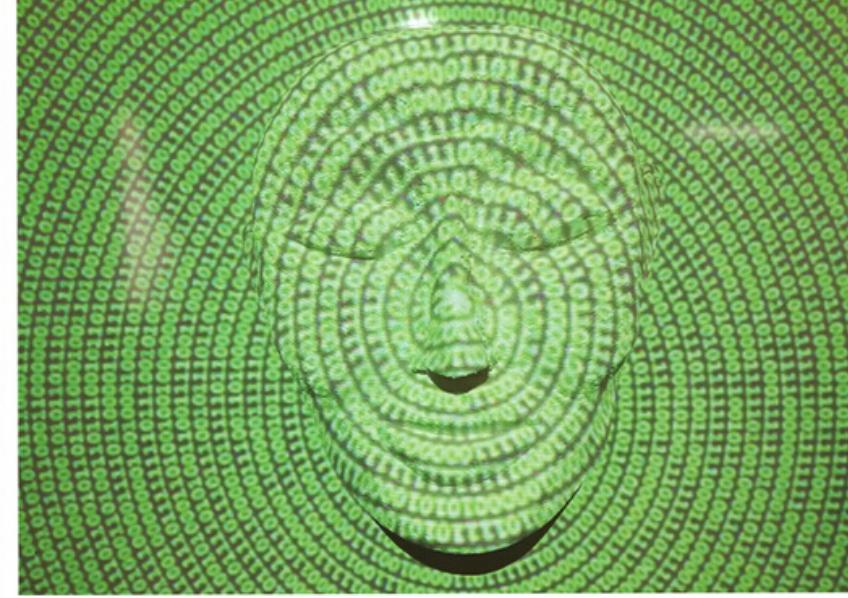
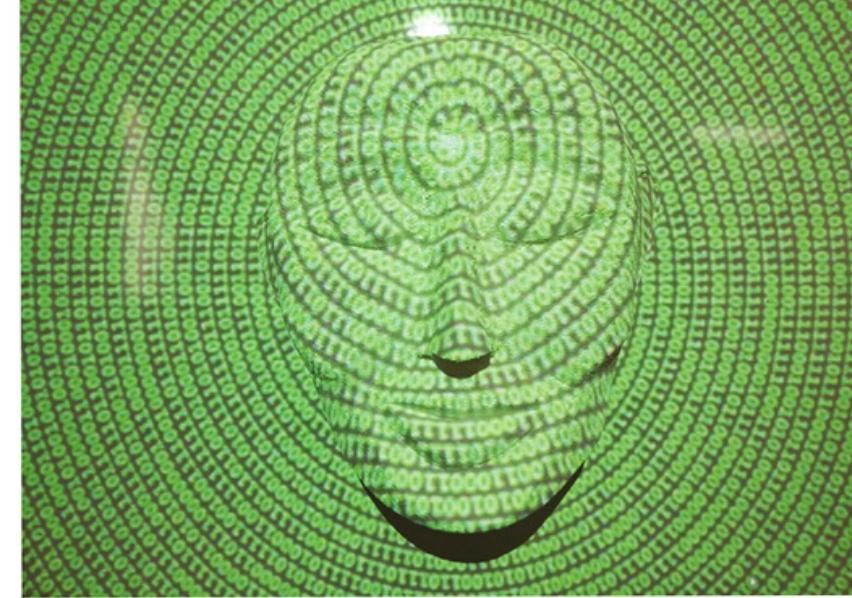


This picture of Os and 1s depicts that the data and information stored on the computer is in the form of bits and these data are under the risk if any anonymous group or hacker invade into the computer system.



Anonymous BITS

<https://freedomandsafety.com/en/file/spiral-binary-bits.jpg>



My artwork

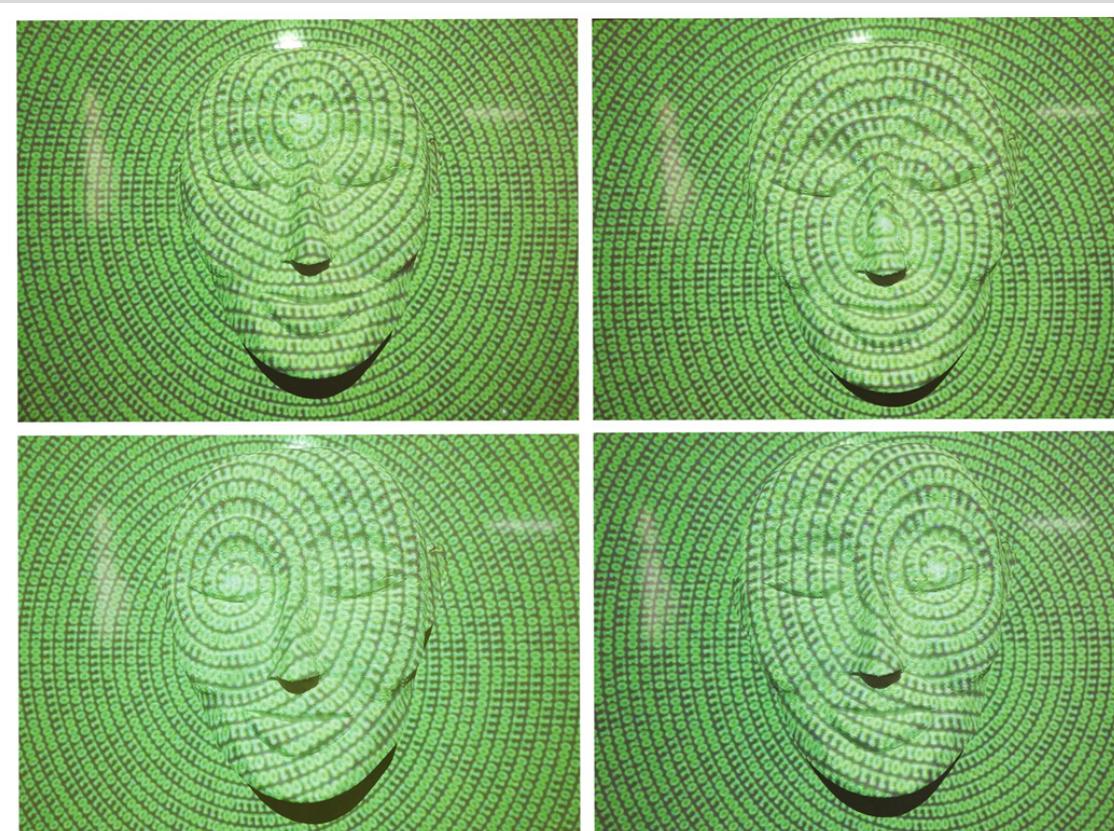
Took a thick thermocol and then cut it into triangular shape. With the use of sand paper I smoothed the sides, to make an oval from it , and then again smoothed the oval to give a facial structure (two eyes, eyebrows, space for nose, lips).

Made two ears and a nose and then pasted the ears on both the sides of the face and the nose on the face.

Projected this image onto the face structure made with thermocol, keeping the centre point at the forehead, nose, left and right eye.

Exhibition Display Plan

I have 2 paintings, and 9 installations and 1 plan to display them similar to the below orientation. The 1st installation will be on the left side. Then, the 3rd installation on the table and above that, on the wall the 2nd installation.



The installation number 4, 5, 6, and 7 will be kept together as they form an interactive installations. The 4th installation will be hung from the ceiling in front of the 5th installation. The installation 6th and 7th are placed beside it. These can be worn by the viewers and then can interact with the 5th installation .





Reflecting on my artworks

Ideate

For getting an initial idea to produce an unique and exceptional artwork, I had to always think logically which further helped me develop my critical thinking skills..

Research Skills

Throughout my two years, I explored different types of artworks by different artists which henceforth inspired me to develop and incorporate those skills and techniques in my artworks.

Presentation Skills

After developing an art, it becomes important to present the art piece in such a way that people can easily interpret the concept behind the art and hence convey the intended message to the viewer.

Communication Skills

Through all my artworks, I have tried to visually share and communicate concepts relating to my topic i.e. Technology.

Bibliography

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