

DEAILIENATION (Collective Solitude)

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Project Description

In this project, I would like to put a smile upon the user's face, as simple as that. Since childhood, I was known with the sound of my contagious laughter and the fact that I smile and laugh with every single part of my body. I always laugh, and seriously, I am not sure what is the reason behind it, but I know for sure that it feels good and keeps me in the good mood. Thus, ever since I was a little boy, I have loved to make people of my surrounding smile, which makes me feel that one of the major points that I am brought into this world is to elevate people's mood as much as I can.

The initial idea for this project was something metaphorical / philosophical / psychological / spiritual; However, while writing its proposal, I realized that my knowledge about the concept of what I wanted to explore is still unmaturred and too raw, and it demands much more profound research upon which a solid foundation can be built in order to convey a specific meaning.

Hence, instead of visualizing an ideology, I decided to start small by just creating a shared network space between different users, visualize it in a way as if they are all alone individuals at first, and throughout the whole experience, which I yet have to decide what would it be, make them all smile at the same time, then, this one mixed individual turns to a group of beautiful people with smile upon their faces. I would like to use this space to both bring people together, an also show them that connecting with each other and smiling is what makes us who we actually are, and this is one of main functionalities of the internet.

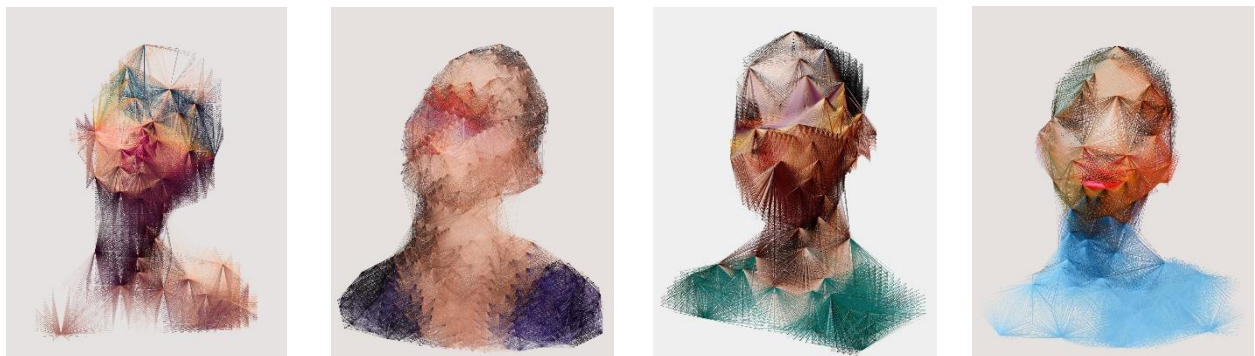
Visual Storyboard & Research



By doing this project, I would like to explore different notions of programing and learn more about OpenCV and image manipulation, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning so that perhaps I would be able to bring the collective entity, which is created by collecting data from different users, to life, and, last but not least, the subject of generative art.

The Generative Portraiture of Espen Kluge

I really love Espen Kluge's work and how appealing and abstract they are. I would love to implement this level of abstraction to the Inputs I get from different users, yet I am not sure how would I be able to do it. In the article, Kluge explained his process of creating his artworks and states that the code loops through all the pixels in a raster image and chooses some at semi-random, then engages those pixels by putting lines between them. He added that he is able to adjust five or six variables to do things like focusing in on one color more than another. So, I would like to experiment and try apply this aspect of generative art into my project.



DensePose & Pix2Pix

As I mentioned earlier, I would love to explore the world of computer-generated graphics with the help of Neural Networks and Artificial Intelligence. The works of **Robbie Barrat**, made me think how would I be able to make use of these techniques to generate faces and generative art piece. I am not pretty sure if I would implement Barrat's form of art into this specific project, nonetheless, his works, with the use of DensePose along with Pix2Pix, inspired me a lot, and I try to find a way to make use of all the capture data from different users and create something out of it.

Joy Division & Mutable Gallery

From these specific sources, I like their minimalistic and line art approach, which is super aesthetically pleasing to me. I would like to borrow this type of look and mix it with Klug's style of work in order to create my space. The reason is that I want each user feel isolated and alienated at the beginning, in a vast white space, then by the end of the experiment I would like the space to feel by all other smiling and joyful faces of all users to give tell each user that s/he is not alone and a single smile is the beginning of not feeling alone and connecting to others.

