

Computational Mama works at the intersection care, computing and community. She is an AI prompt crafter, Creative technologist, and designer. She runs a creative technology studio called Ajaibghar. And also works as a AI Product Evangelist and Head of Developer Relations at G00EY.AI. She has been the recipient of the prestigious Processing Foundation Fellowship 2021, curated AIXDesign's AI Playground program in 2022.

## Computational Mama - WORK SAMPLES

updated

November 2023

# Recreating with p5.js

updated 28 Sept 2022

workshop

code

care

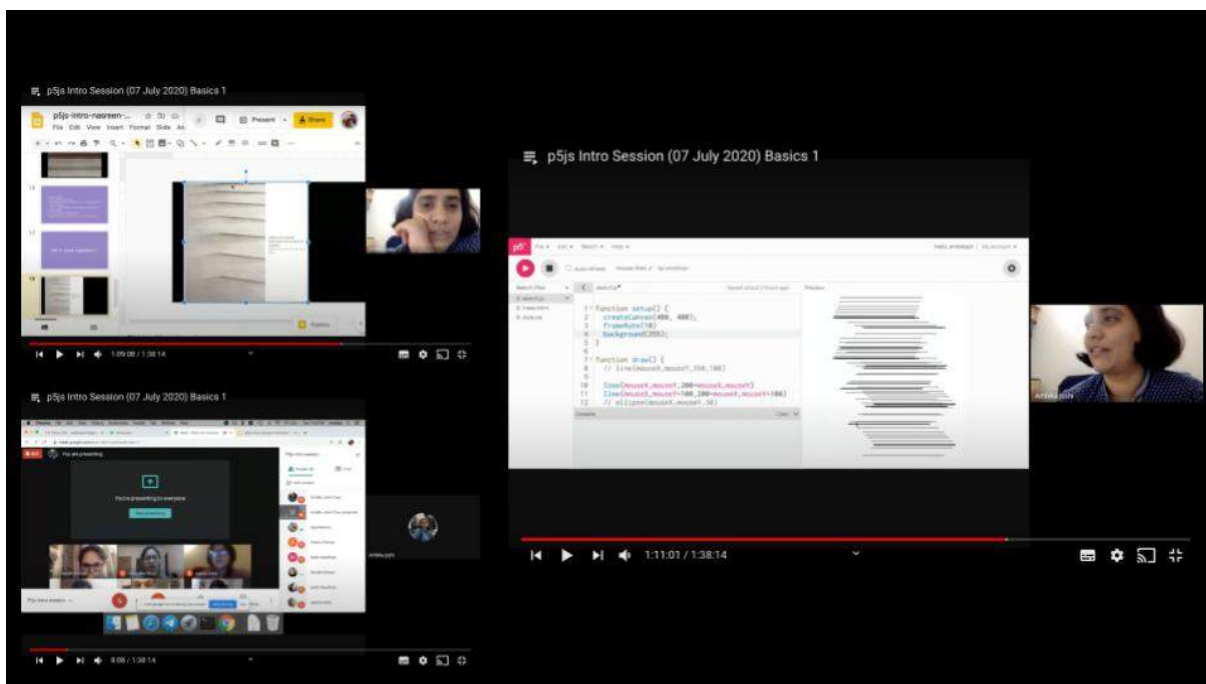
p5js

**Recreating with p5js** is a workshop format spanning 10 hours over 4 weeks. It is a simple and approachable way for anyone to start learning the basics of coding. This project allows accessibility to those from non-STEM, non-coding backgrounds to learn creative coding. It has also been easy to break age barriers, the workshop's oldest student has been a 67 year old retired businesswoman and mother of two!

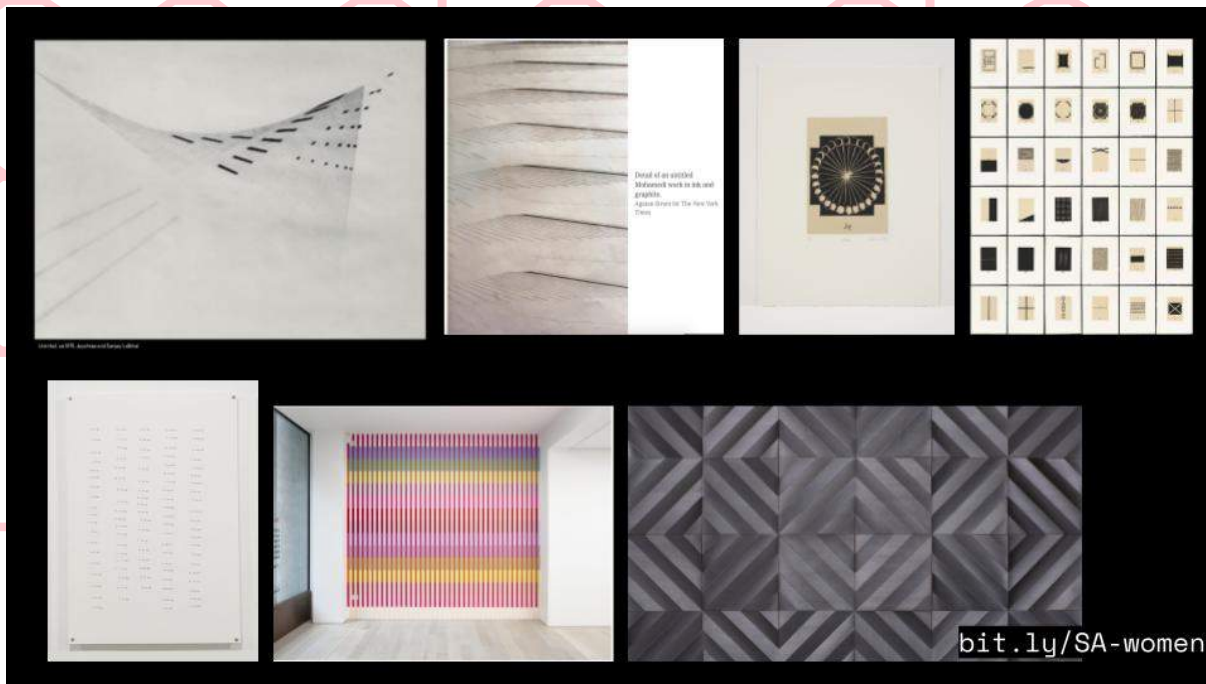
Centering the curriculum in basic art history of women artists, gives the format a strong feminist position of developing a skill that is associated with white male stereotypes.

Moving away from the traditional "hello world" basics of computational thinking and coding, the format approaches the basics of javascript coding through recreating artworks of well known womxn artists of South Asia. Featured artists and artworks are mapped to the fundamentals of javascript coding, for example, learning about lines and coordinate systems with Nasreen Mohamedi, for loops through Zarina Hashmi, text and typography through Ayesha Jatoi.

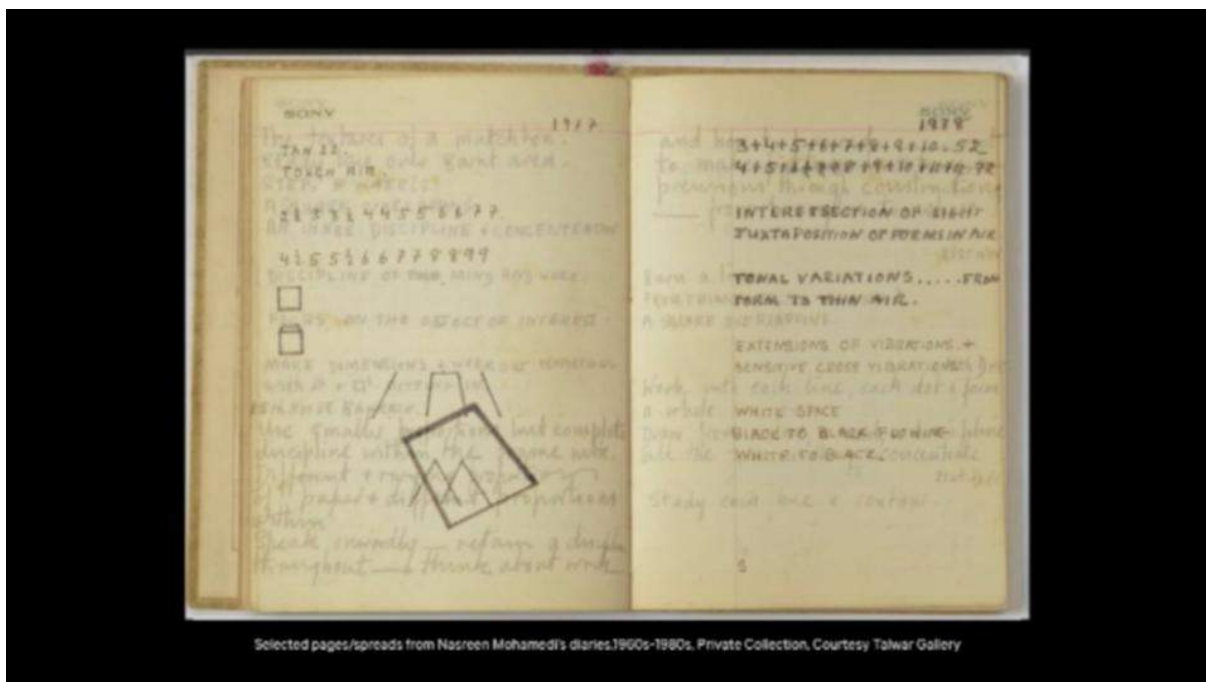
**Recreating with p5js has been running since July 2020. The workshops have been widely attended with more than 200 students.**



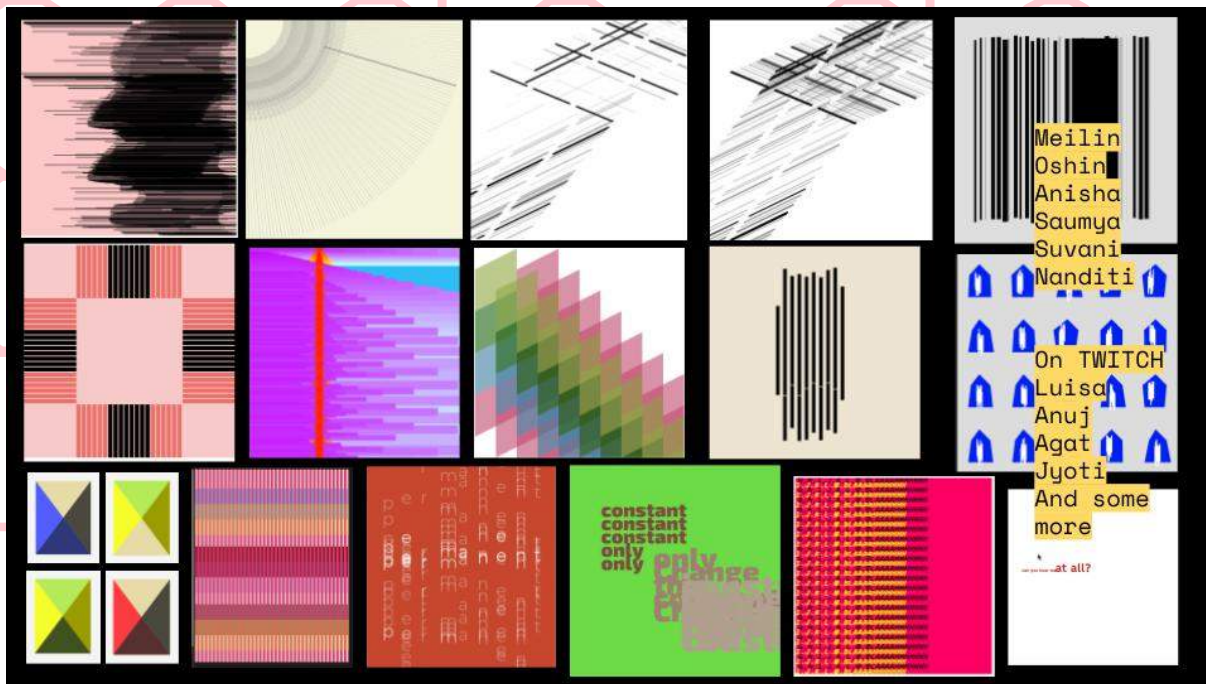
Recreating with p5js



Recreating with p5js



Recreating with p5js



Recreating with p5js

# Care with Computers – essay for Public Pedagogies

updated 10 Aug 2023

essay

code

care

As part of their November journal, Public Pedagogies Institute invited me to write an essay about my practice.

## Abstract

Computational Mama met with Diwas Raja Kc for an online conversation about her practice in relation to artist-led public pedagogies. Computational Mama's work explores live coding and computational thinking as forms of friendship and care. She currently lives in Udaipur, India, in a multi-generational household of all women and her 5-year-old son. In this rich exchange ranging from feminist theorists, artists, and coders, they discuss how she chose this moniker as care-giving and motherhood increasingly impact her practice and strategies of creative facilitation with community.

**Keywords:** caregiving, creative coding, feminist strategies, social practice

Link to the [article](#) The details of the Journal can be found [here](#).



# Journal of Public Pedagogies

Number 7, 2023

Cover of the Journal. Drawing by: Coffee and the Makers: one of the tools at the School of Improper Education, 2019, KUNCI, by Agen OH



# Coding with Friends

updated 3 Aug 2021

code

care

feminism

livecoding

motherhood

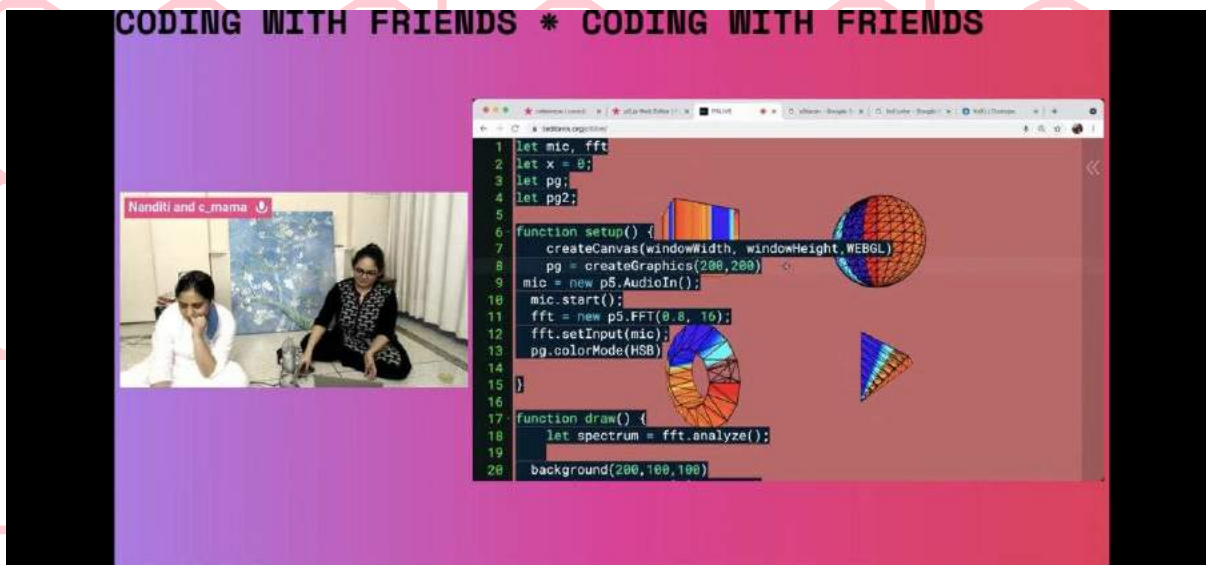
What does it mean to have a simple intimate chat over a shared activity? Does creating with code only serve its purpose towards an output? Can the act of two friends coding together mean more than a product, a production or a performance? Coding with Friends is an ongoing series of live streams with womxn makers and creators. These are one on one sessions, where Computational Mama invites a friend and they code together. It is a casual meeting of friends (old and new) where the act of coding together can be equated to making dimsums or folding paper cranes or even playing a board game. As the live stream unfolds, a small approachable project is live coded and developed together, generally related to the field of work of the invited guest. The coding session is accompanied by discussing various aspects of work/life/and things in between. Much like meeting a friend - the agenda need not be too specific, and has an opportunity to steer in any direction. Coding with Friends casually and simply claims space for womxn creators. The series extends the idea of co-coding as a form of camaraderie, friendship and self-care.

This project was funded by the PROCESSING FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP IN 2021 I gave to the Processing Foundation at the end of my Fellowship. Available here on their [Medium blog](#).

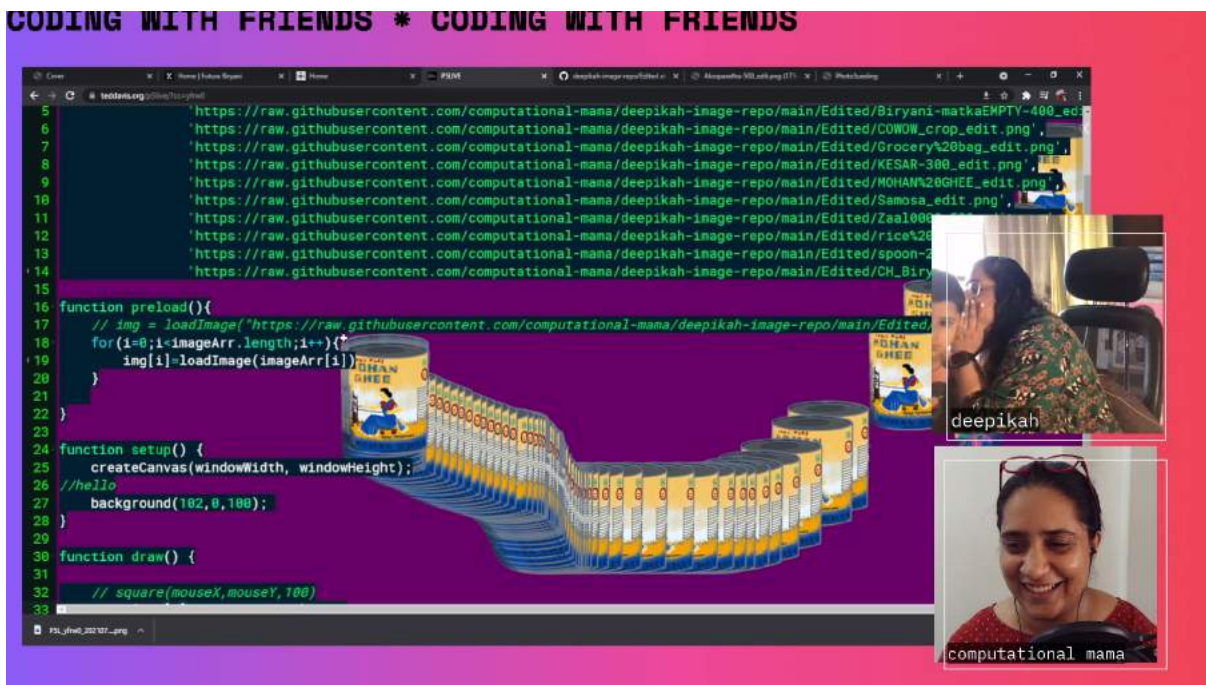
## CODING WITH FRIENDS \* CODING WITH FRIENDS



A screenshot showing three women smiling while the back of a young child appears in the centre of the image. The image appears over a pink and purple background



Nanditi and cmama sitting on the floor with computer equipment;  
on the right, a screenshot shows of live coding environment.



Deepikah whispering to her son who walked into the livestream



# CODING WITH FRIENDS \* CODING WITH FRIENDS

The screenshot shows a P5.js live coding session. The main canvas displays a table of fake news with Trump's face. The table has two columns: the first column lists countries and the second column lists fake news items. The countries listed are Tunisia, Lebanon, South Africa, Philippines, Venezuela, Kenya, Columbia, India, and Mexico. The fake news items are: 'veryUpset', 'smiling', 'happy', 'thumbsup', 'thumbsup', 'thumbsup', 'thumbsup', 'thumbsup', and 'thumbsup'. The code on the left shows the P5.js code for loading the table and displaying the images. The code on the right shows the P5.js code for loading the images and displaying the text. The code on the left is as follows:

```

5 let straightFace;
6 let happy;
7 let thumbsUp;
8
9 function preload() {
10   table = loadTable("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/data.csv");
11   veryUpset = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/1.png");
12   upset = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/2.png");
13   smiling = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/3.png");
14   straightFace = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/4.png");
15   happy = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/5.png");
16   thumbsup = loadImage("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/computational-mama/saumyaa-image-repo/main/6.png");
17 }
18
19 function setup() {
20   createCanvas(windowWidth, windowHeight);
21   textSize(32);
22 }
23
24 function draw() {
25   background('#59c3aa');
26   for(let r = 0; r < table.getRowCount(); r++) {
27     text(table.get(r, 0), 500, 60+r * 60);
28
29     let num = table.get(r, 1);
30     let imgin;
31
32     if(num=="78"){
33       imgin = thumbsup
34     }
35     image(imgin, width / 2+50, r * 60, 60, 60);
36
37     if(num=="76"){
38       imgin = happy
39     }
40     image(imgin, width / 2+50, r * 60, 60, 60);
41   }
42 }

```

The code on the right is as follows:

```

P5LIVE
COCODING2
SKETCHES
new_002
new_001
DEMOS
new
META
CANVAS

```

Soumya and cmama building a table of fake news with Trump

# Mother Machines

updated 3 Nov 2022

ai

motherhood

Link to the film: <https://youtu.be/uGfj-g9Qgrw>

While the field of artificial intelligence is dominated by men, there are an overwhelming amount of instances where artificial intelligence technology is gendered as female, such as an instance in digital voice assistants like Amazon's Alexa or Apple's Siri. To be female is the default in AI-assisted technology, and yet, despite this, there is very little space that represents mothers and the labour of mothering.

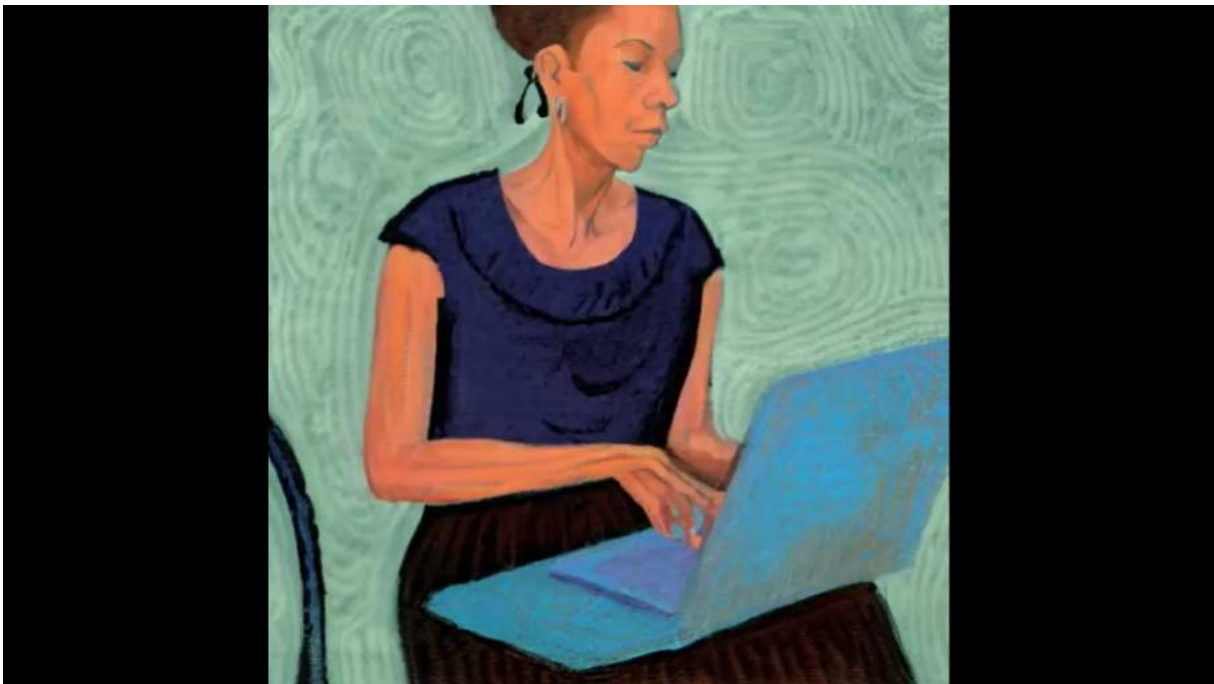
Observing a lack of mother-like figures in the multitudes of AI-generated work, Mother Machines is a series created through a persistent prompting strategy that produces as many mothers/mothering-related imagery as the machine can possibly churn out. The project reproduces mothers not as saintly figures, but as tired, strained, multi-tasking, labouring and sometimes even in tears. Mother Machines continually pushes the AI model to (re)imagine notions of mothering, what it means to be a mother, and the act of birthing, making visible the invisibility of gendered work in motherhood.

Shown at:

- The Sleepover, CIVIC, Basel, June 2023 [link](#)
- Feminism in Public Space project by Designathon, Zurich, March 2023
- BeFantastic TechArt Teasers, Samsung Opera House, Bengaluru, November 2022



Stills from Mother Machines



Stills from Mother Machines



Stills from Mother Machines



Stills from Mother Machines





Stills from Mother Machines



# Archive of Lost Mothers

updated 27 Feb 2023

*ai*

*motherhood*

*feminism*

*birthing*

*posthuman*

*dataset bias*

My partner described the birth of our son to me. The birth was via a c-section, and the graphic details which he shared with me, reminded me of the Alien movie franchise. This idea melded a bit into the post-human explorations of what a mother can be. Always multi-limbed and multi-tasking.

The idea was to traverse the edge of the generative AI images their macabre and uncanny outputs and extend them into a fictional narrative. Bringing together the images created with generative AI, and the small stories that present themselves as an archive of doctor's notes, and other medical records.

The project emerges as an archive of a secret scientific society that suppressed radical new birthing, new womxn beings developing limbs and post human babies. They were hidden in a secret facility so their birthing prowess could be watched and monitored. Their bodies, their offspring and their energies deleted from the popular imagination.

Some of the images were created by me and now after I created a website, that appears like a searchable archive and every search creates a new lost mother image with a new story by anyone one using the search interface. You can try the web interface here: [Link to the Archive of Lost Mothers](#)

## Images from the Archive of Lost Mothers



AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers



AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers





AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers



AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers



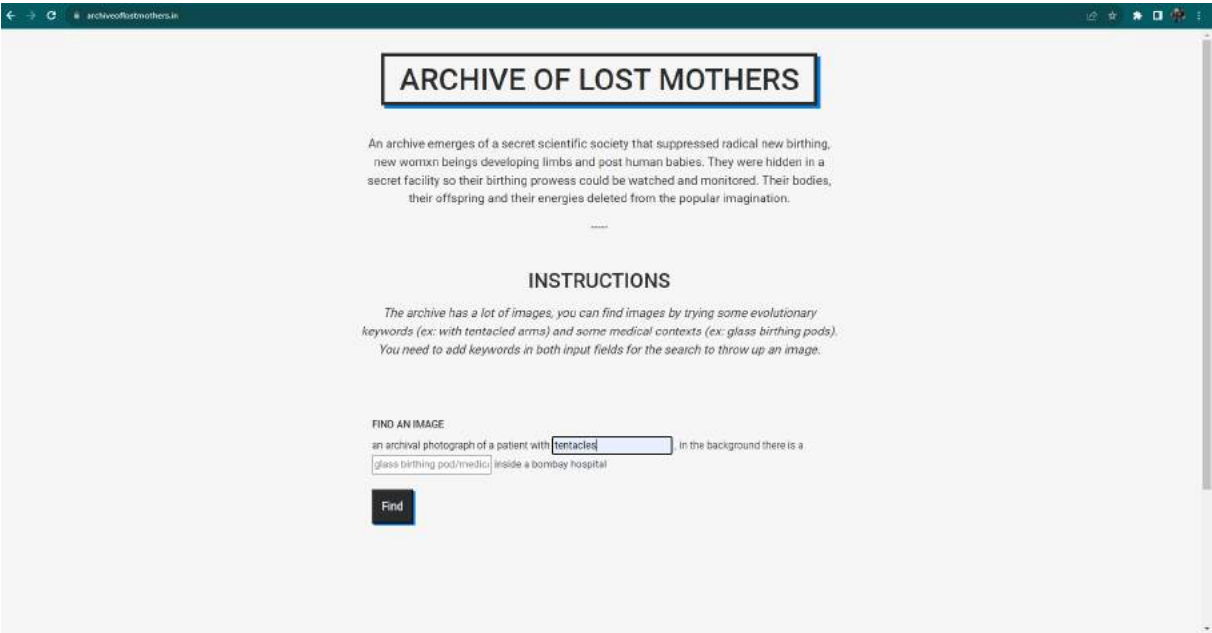
AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers



AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers



AI Generated Images of the Archive of Lost Mothers

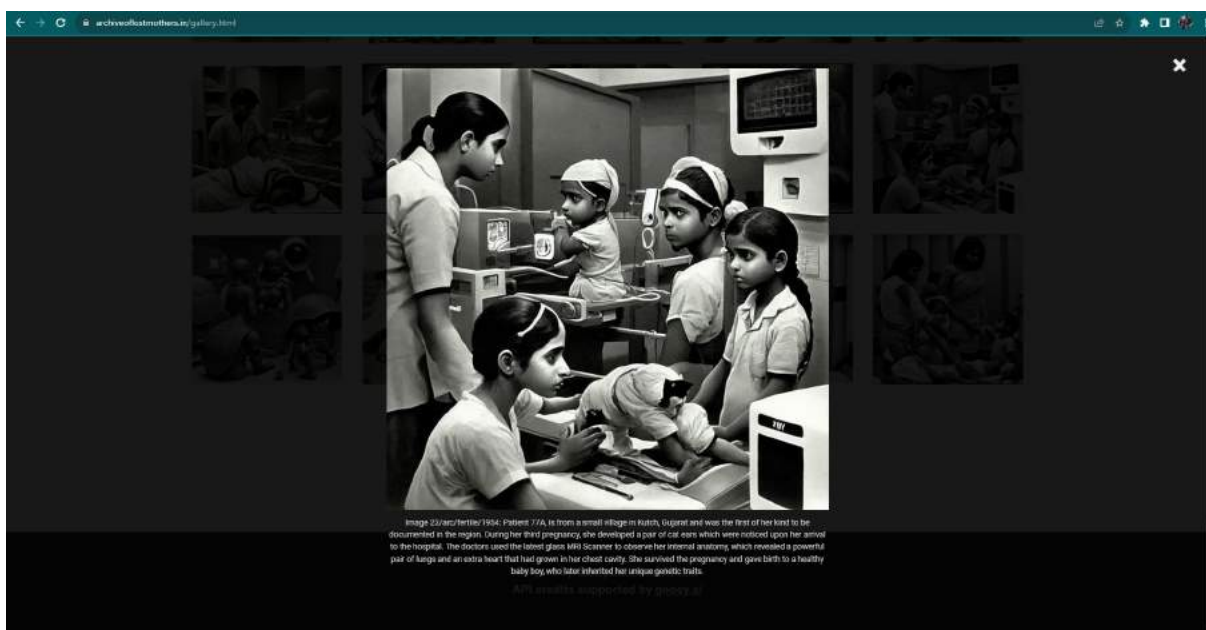


Screenshot of the fictional archival website





Screenshot of the fictional archival website



Screenshot of the fictional archival website

# C/o – The Podcast

updated 1 Jun 2022

podcast

care

code

motherhood



*A short-form podcast featuring conversations with creative technologists about code, work and care*

[Link](#) to the podcast

*Published: September 2023 (Season 1)*

## Premise

As I traverse ideas and realities of care in my life first for grandparents and now for my son. I recognise shifts in ways of thinking and working, differences in the access available or afforded to me. And I can't help but wonder how care translates for others in the creator community. This podcast is a simple attempt to open up, investigate and document our practices from the lens of care (particularly where the creators are responsible as primary caregivers).

**These are the subjects that the podcast focuses on:**

- Introduction of the artist
- One project that they care about
- What does care mean to them at work and at home

## Objectives

- To converse openly about care as part of our lives and how it affects our work and workflow
- To highlight the work of creative technologists as a diverse multifaceted community

- To make space for the process or act of coding/making/creating over the code/ output/product/art



Screenshot from the podcast with guest Ilithiya and Eliza of Curiously Minded



Screenshot from the podcast with guest Kate Sicchio

# Poetry Together

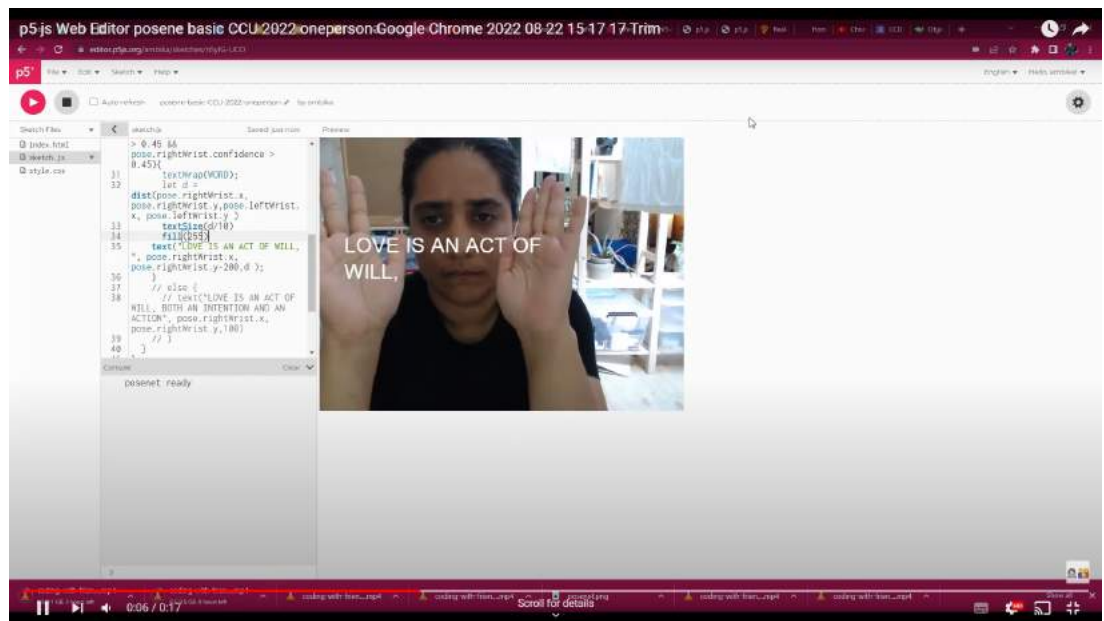
updated 27 Aug 2022

ai workshop posenet generative poetry teachable  
machines ml5js p5js care friendships

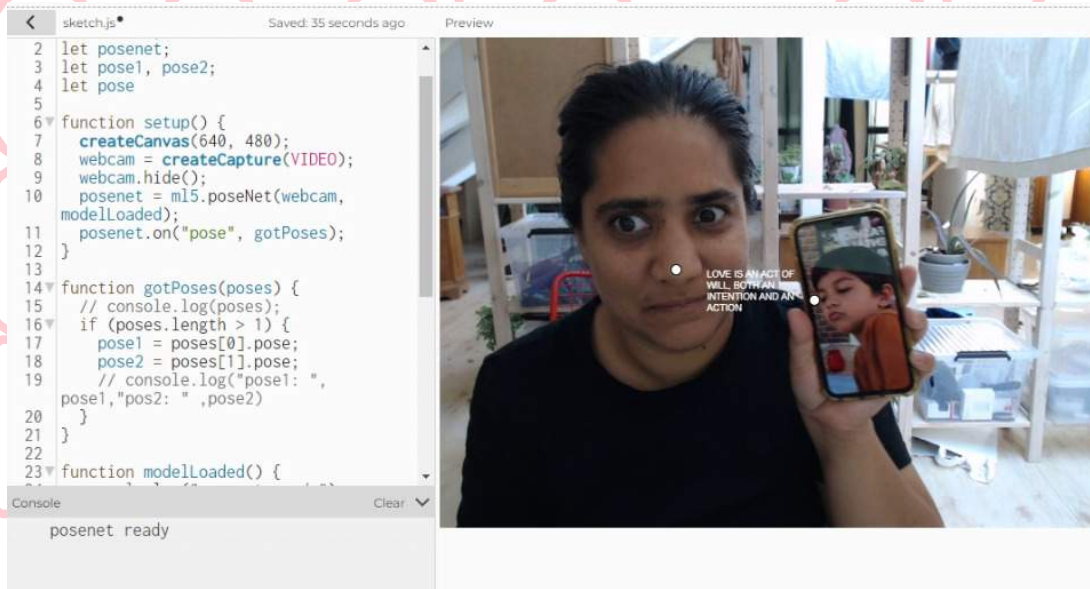
This workshop was a quick and simple introduction to body tracking and learn the basics of AI and Machine Learning in the context of the human body poses. After understanding the basics of training a machine with body poses, the participants were encouraged to produce a simple interactive webcam based project, where you can train the machine to produce verses of poetry based on body poses and mapped on the body parts but only if two or more people appear together on the webcam.

Teach a poem to the computer: [Head over to the Glitch project and clone it](#)

## Testing out the code



screenshot of the code for poetry together and me testing it out



screenshot of the code for poetry together and me testing it out

## Presentation and handout of the workshop

[LINK](#)

Download the handout [here](#)



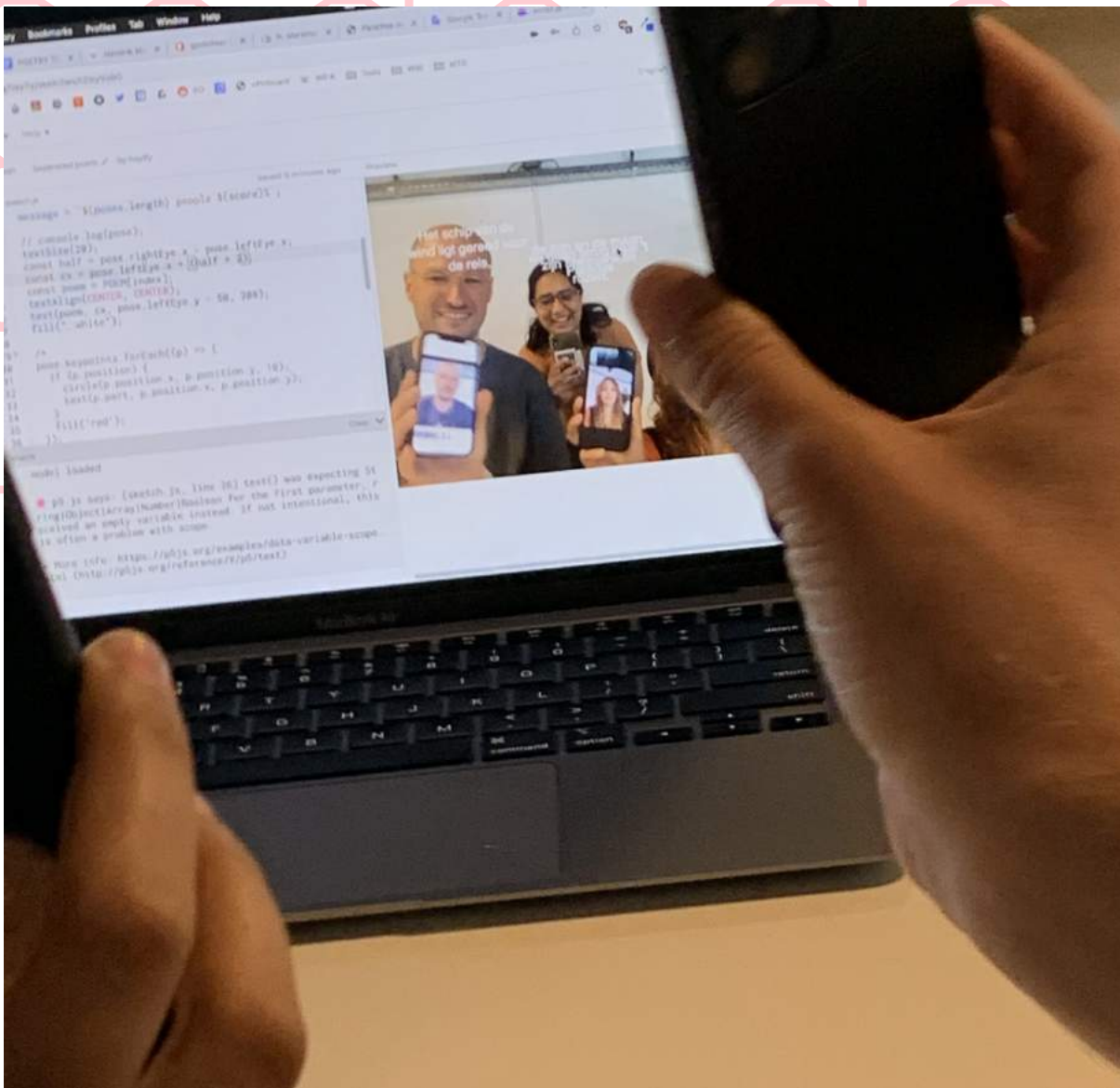


Image from poetry together code workshop

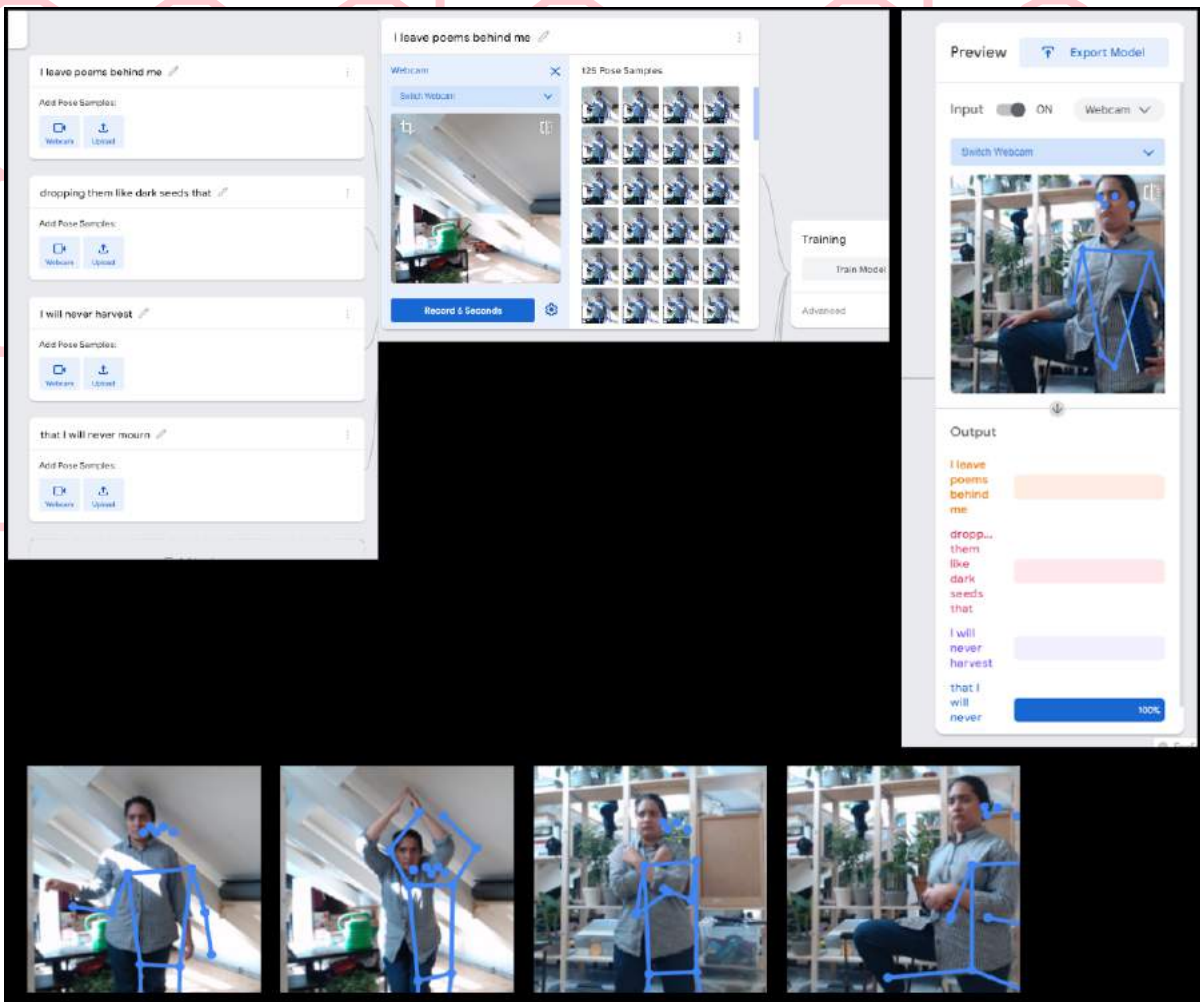


Image from poetry together code workshop

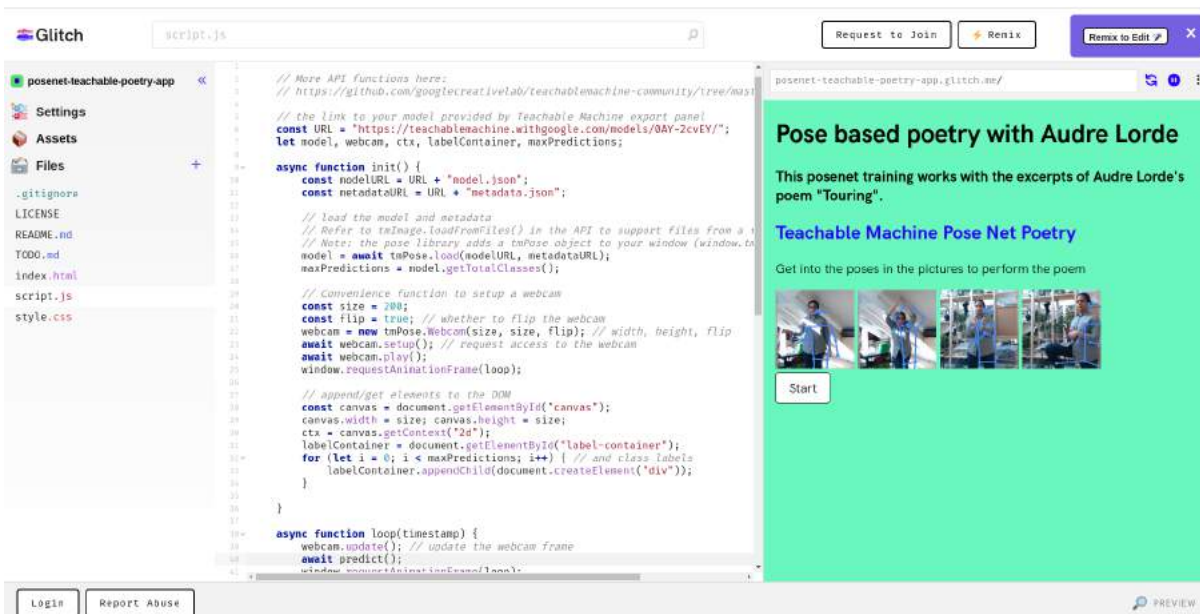


Image from poetry together code workshop

# Mother Machines Experiments

updated 31 Oct 2022

ai

motherhood

birthing

Drawing from observations of lack of mother-like figures in the multitudes of recent AI generated work (early to mid 2022), the series is a persistent prompting strategy to generate as many mothers as the machine can churn out. Reproducing mothers not as saintly, smiling, in happy and faithful servitude, but tired, strained, multi-tasking and sometimes in tears! Mother Machines continually pushes the AI model to imagine mother-ing, mother-ness and birthing.

In the early images, when prompted by an artist's name, you will immediately see the visuals develop as per the style of the artist, but more importantly somehow capturing some learned ideas about the artist. An almost nuanced understanding, I can't say how.



Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines

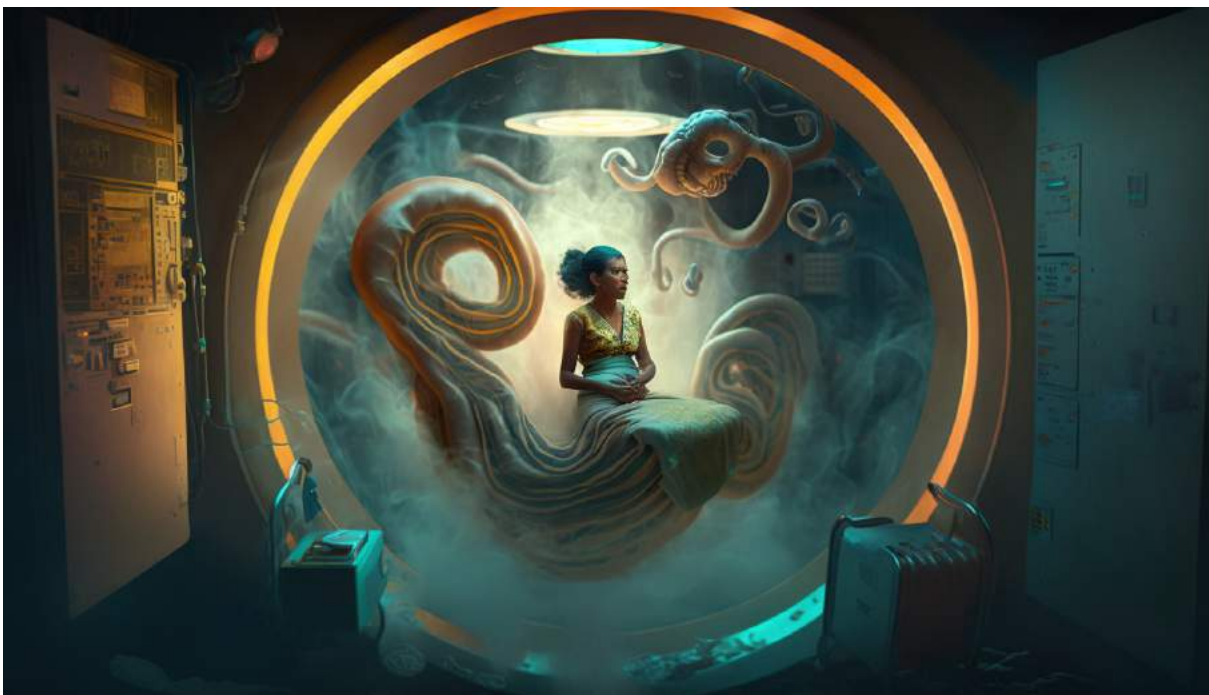


Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines





Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines





Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines



Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines



Various stylistic explorations for Mother Machines

# Verstoppertje Poppetje (Hide and Seek Doll)

updated 3 Sept 2022

workshop

care

friendships

posenet

As part of my ongoing exploration of body tracking and AI technologies related to it (mainly posenet and handpose libraries built by Google's tensorflow), participants and I engaged in a conversation about AI technology, computer vision and machine training and biases. The conversation was accompanied by a craft activity. We decided to create small paper chain dolls and other chain based body parts in colored paper to see if the machine could be fooled into recognising our crafty creations as human bodies and human hands. A playful hide and seek like limitations test for these AI technologies.

The format was devised keeping in mind that participants would have limited connectivity and no access to laptops.

This activity was part of the larger Makers Meet & Eat held at Utrecht in September 2022.



Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht





Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht



Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht





Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht



Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht





Images from the Makers Meet & Eat, Utrecht

# Care Garden

updated 23 Jun 2023

code

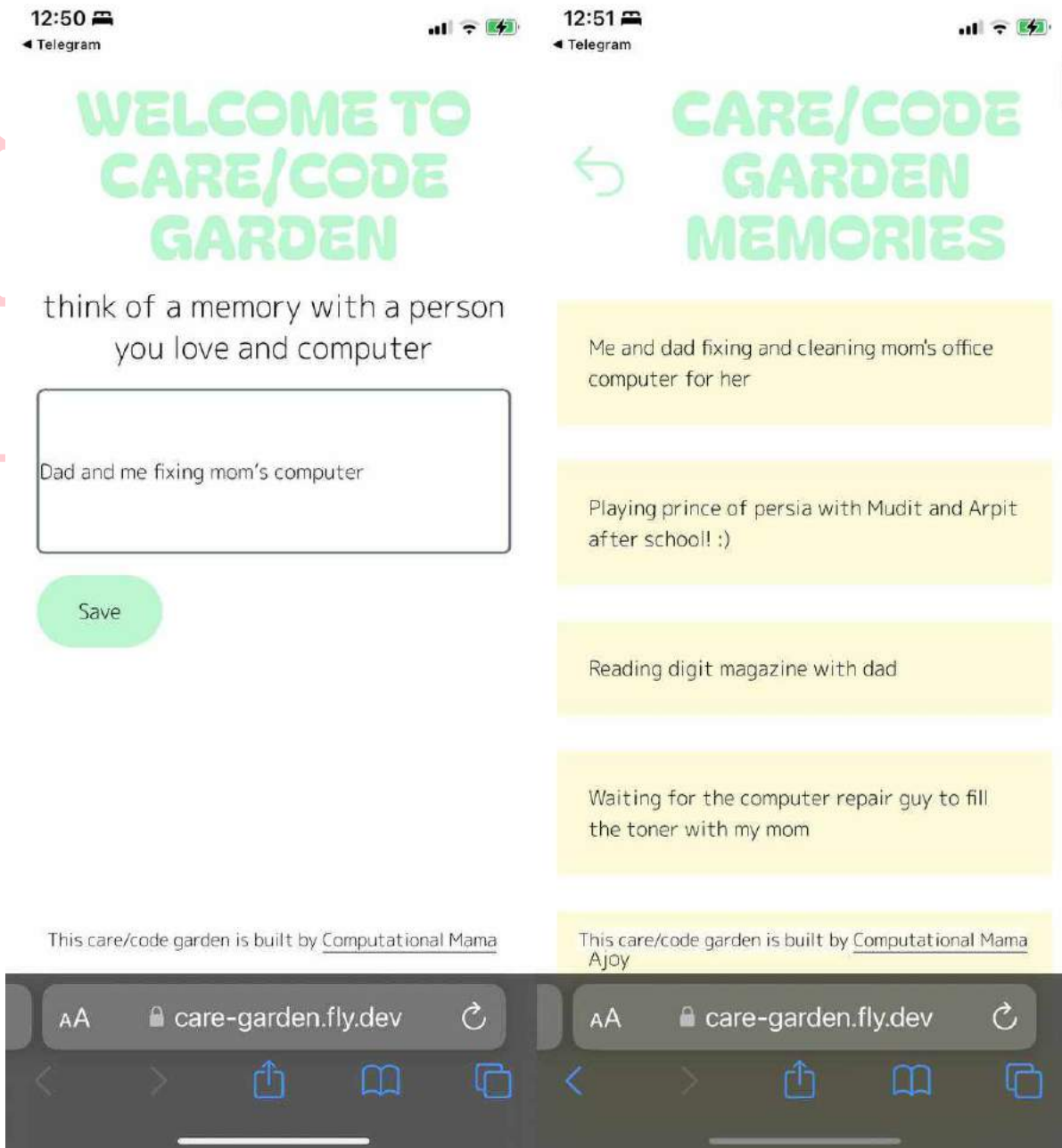
care

I built this small project for my talk at the BUMP Festival 2023, Katrijk, Belgium. It allows you to leave a simple and anonymous memory from your past which features a piece of technology, computers or computing.

[Head over to Care Garden app to try it!](#)



Screenshots from the Care Garden app



Screenshots from the Care Garden app