



Dan Xu

PORTFOLIO

AI & LANGUAGE

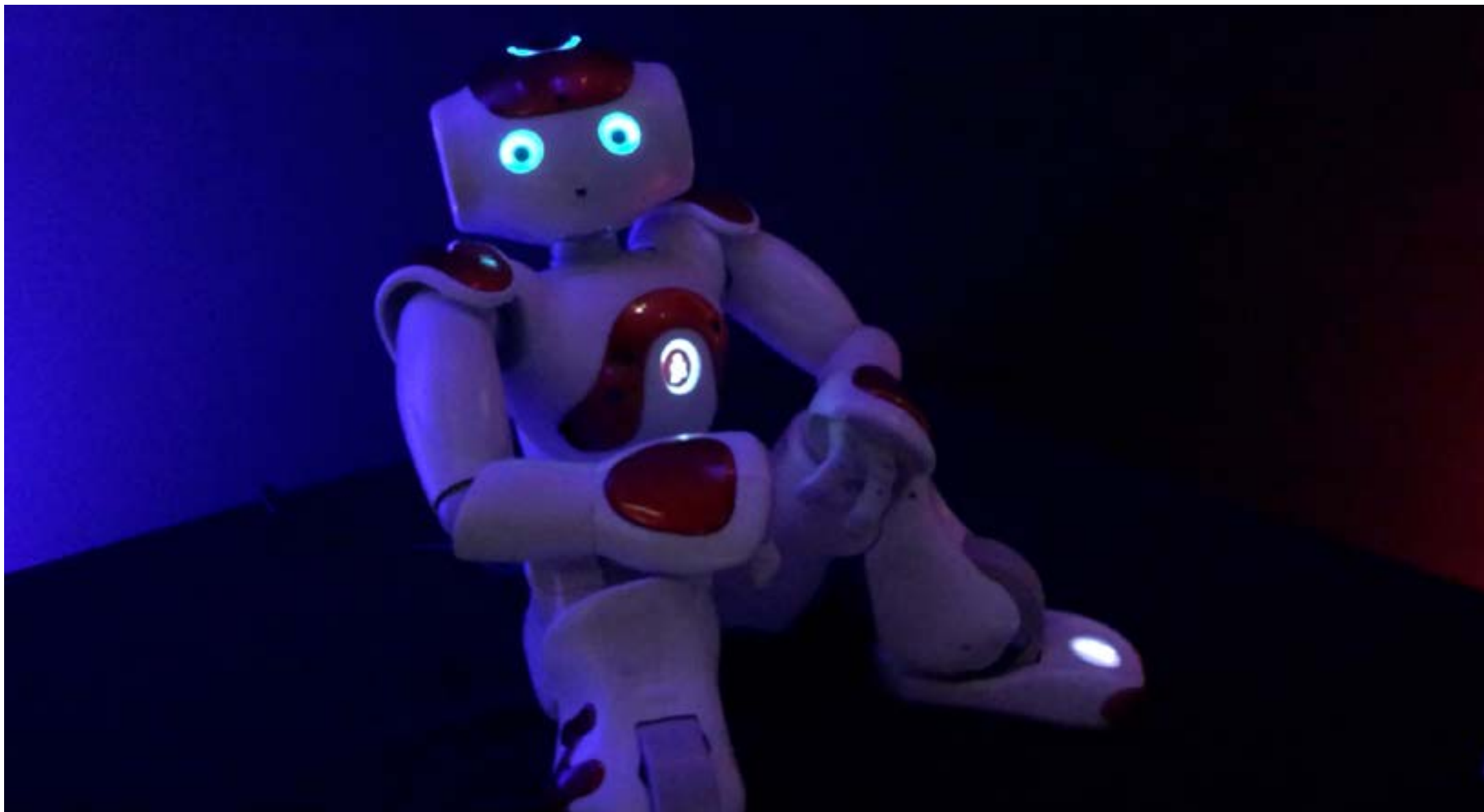


DeepMeaning (2019)

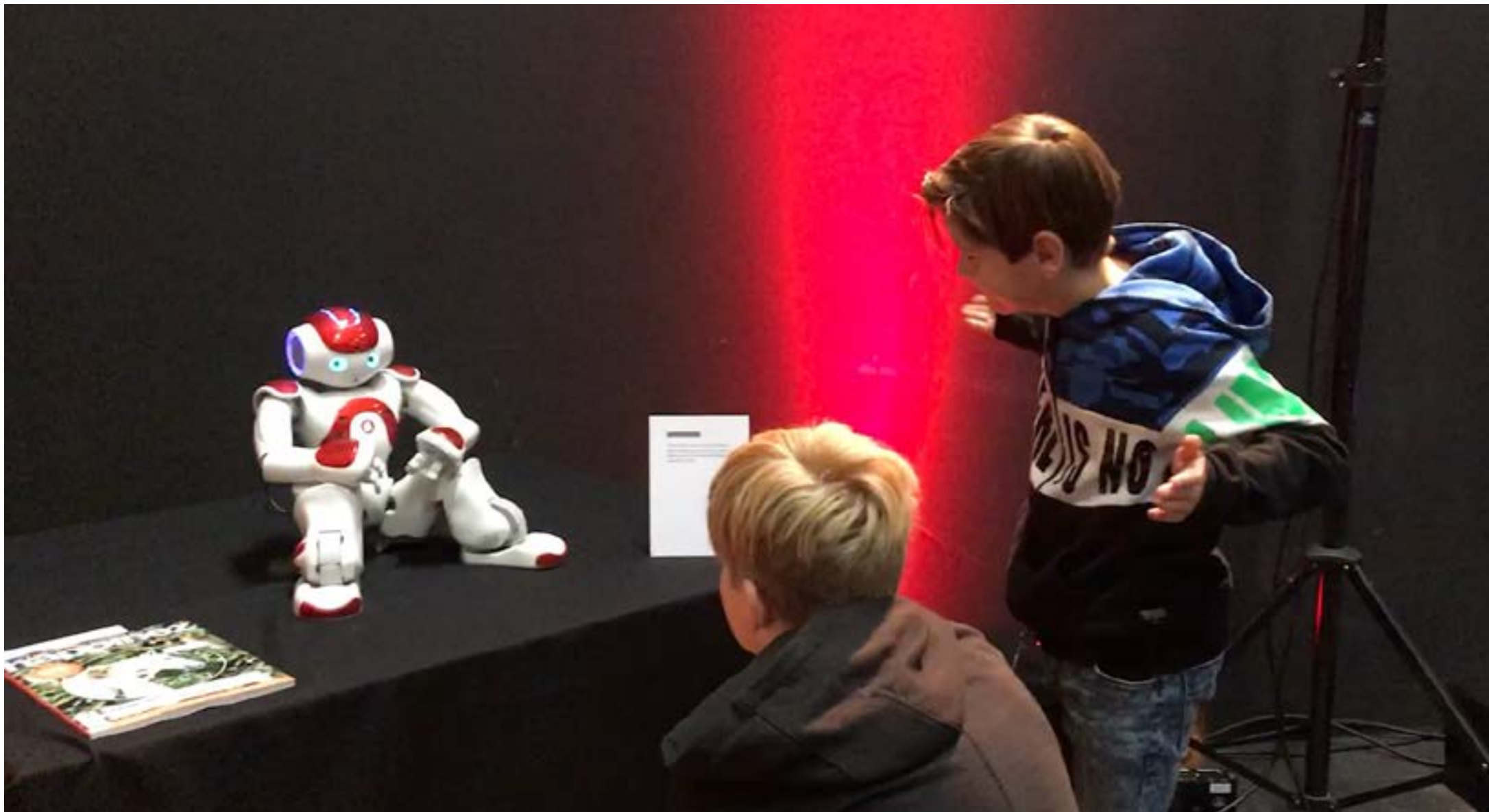
A NAO robot delivers spiritual advice generated by a recurrent neural network trained on self-help lectures.

Photos taken at Beyond Human Festival 2019, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, NL, Nov 9-11, 2019

Design: Peter van der Putten; Robotics: Joost Broekens



[Watch the robot preacher](#)



[Kids in dialogue with NAO](#)

RT @beardvillain: Future "Wicked" video LIT! as an emotional being. In spite of the superimposed conscience lies in your own existence on the other.

It is the only way you must be recognized as a result of your fate, ill in a state of being, you are often as yet unconsciously constantly not so lower than the fact that it is that the end is the same.

The more the self is left against his self-punishment in your soul. The fear of loving is a very necessary state of development. The worst of these two factors responsible for the law of pleasure supreme with the possibility of frustration and reality. This is a positive result of your being, when the outer ground is a very deep feeling that you can never be loved and actively without a different power, but without expressing your outer attitude toward it. The universal law of meditation even aware of the problem – but only by accomplishing your self-confrontation in the past, for the ego can realize that you do not see the truth, and the fear of self-punishment and go suffering is all the entity. The more this will not be something anyone who is not something in you because you do not give yourself the laws of the self that cannot be destroyed and defensive and

Deep Meaning was first conceived and developed in 2016. The first prototype extracts the latest tweet containing the word 'future' and continues generating content.

Exhibited at Futures - Open lab expo at Vrijplaats, Leiden, NL, Jun 3-4, 2016

[View all texts generated during the expo.](#)

... and then Saint Joseph. But he was undeniably handsome with an exquisite nose and he was what he looked, every inch a gentleman, the shape of his head too at the back without his cap on that she would know anywhere something off the common and the way he turned the bicycle at the lamp with his hands off the bars and also the nice perfume of those good cigarettes and besides they were both of a size too he and she and that was why Edy Boardman thought she was so frightfully clever because he didn't go and ride up and down in front of her bit of a garden.

Gerty was dressed simply but with the instinctive taste of a votary of Dame Fashion for she felt that there was just a might that he might be out. A neat blouse of electric blue selftinted by dolly dyes (because it was expected in the Lady's Pictorial that electric blue would be worn) with a smart vee opening down to the division and kerchief pocket (in which she always kept a piece of cottonwool scented with her favourite perfume because the handkerchief spoiled the sit) and a navy threequarter skirt cut to the stride showed off her slim graceful figure to perfection. She wore a coquettish little love of a hat of wideleaved nigger straw contrast trimmed with an underbrim of eggblue chenille and at the side a butterfly bow of silk to tone. All Tuesday week afternoon she was hunting to match that chenille but at last she found what she wanted at Clery's summer sales, the very it, slightly shopsoiled but you would never notice, seven fingers two and a penny. She did it up all by herself and what joy was hers when she tried it on then, smiling at the lovely reflection which the mirror gave back to her! And when she put it on the waterjug to keep the shape she knew that that would take the shine out of some people she knew. Her shoes were the newest thing in footwear (Edy Boardman prided herself that she was very petite but she never had a foot like Gerty MacDowell, a five, and never would ash, oak or elm) with patent toecaps and just one smart buckle over her higharched instep. Her wellturned ankle displayed its perfect proportions beneath her skirt and just the proper amount and no more of her shapely limbs encased in finespun hose with highspliced heels and wide garter tops.

The Ulysses Study (2020)

A comparison of readers' reception of texts produced by James Joyce (left) vs. a GPT-2 fine-tuned on *Ulysses* (right). We asked 52 readers to highlight in the texts the phrases they found striking, the results are mapped to the font sizes.

... religious by no means as inertial, and an unsympathetic old gent, a figure not much in heri-
tant in number, 5 to 4, altogether too late in the game. In any case at this stage the affect of
some tear of some letter in some tone
of some tone tears, needless to say, a mur-
mur being the usual method. The effect, as it turned out, was that the act was taken out of the other hands' pockets and done off as soon as the keeper got close to her. The little man at the bar was of the view that whatever was said about her in any case she was a lucky man if the jobcaller was not dead to work though very pertinently, a fact which the reverend Father Conmee thoroughly agreed with, as it often went wrong with such playmates. The jobcaller however was of the view that what-
ever Benedict or any other Judge, jury or other supreme or no
supreme or no such supremely as the bald
brute wouldn't go as far as to say to suggest, that he was one of those master judges who have
soiled common sense generally by placing their haughty piously
o' enactments and legal histories at each step of the
way as to who was the man after the chase, the historical Stephen, the reverend John Hughes, or simply the Brother
—O, do, he broke down.

The jobcaller however had her eye on the prize and if the little doughnut
boy was anything to go by he certainly looked like the fellow that was the backbone of the play but if she
took out her breath she'd at it rather than go looking for the telly with the letters
O coming home today because she hadn't the stomach for it either. The prelate one bit its
handle and the hero all right, being back in good health after a good day of training the last he was in yesterday
when he broke his anken throwing a book in the other by the shite
of his and insulting him so much that he said he couldn't even make a living as a mortar in the
country by the year the year 3000 and that's when he used to be out of
Dublin drinking too much and he heard about the Ireland v All Kings and the Menoppit on the Fords and
Salls auctions and that's when he tried making his mark as a ladshower on the street.

// TELEPORTREE //

By Hijs

If blinds could see, would you still dare to take my last musical laser application one step further making it a bit of a shoal?

// Karak //

By Ren an anzaboumart Heirrei

Future scares, future fascinates, future haunts, one thing it never does is - actually comes through the city.

[Generate your own Old New Media projects](#)

Old New Media (2020)

New Media New Technology was a course offered by the [Media Technology master programme](#) from 2010 - 2020. Students were asked to present their creative projects in an [open expo](#) end of the course. In memory of this, I collected all project descriptions and remixed them with a markov chain, so new projects can still be imagined.



names of grey (2021)

A machine names the varying shades of grey captured by camera.

[View the video](#)

Color names retrieved from: <https://github.com/meodai/color-names>
Made with Processing + Python



Crash: read with GloVe (2020)

The novel *Crash* by J. G. Ballard read with word and sentence vectors from AI language model [GloVe](#).

[View the video](#)

Image from *Crash* film adaptation directed by David Cronenberg
Made with Processing + Python

SOUND & SPACE



Non-Visual Telepresence

Two networked machines translate movement captured by cameras into sound.

[View the video](#)

Made with Processing + Pure Data

electricity2.pd - /Users/dxu/Desktop/prototype/electricity

As the two bodies move closer in the virtual space the sound gets more dynamic and intense

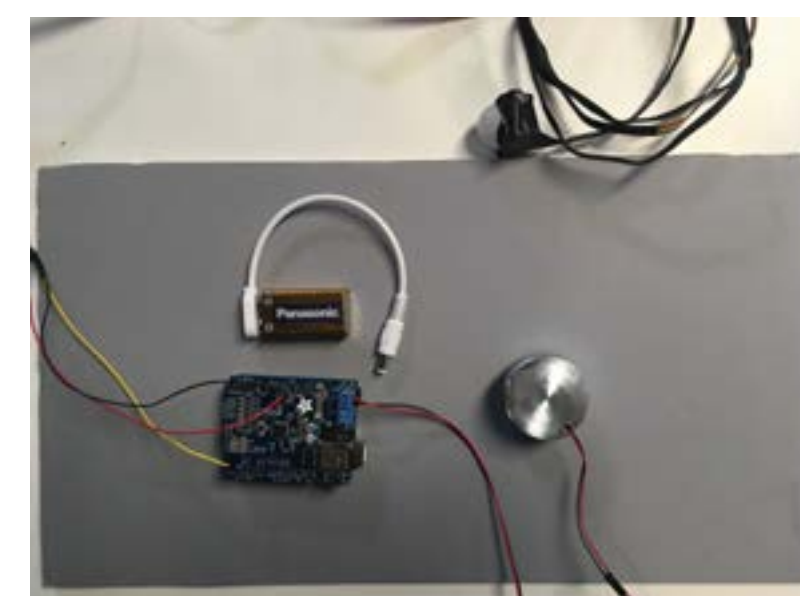
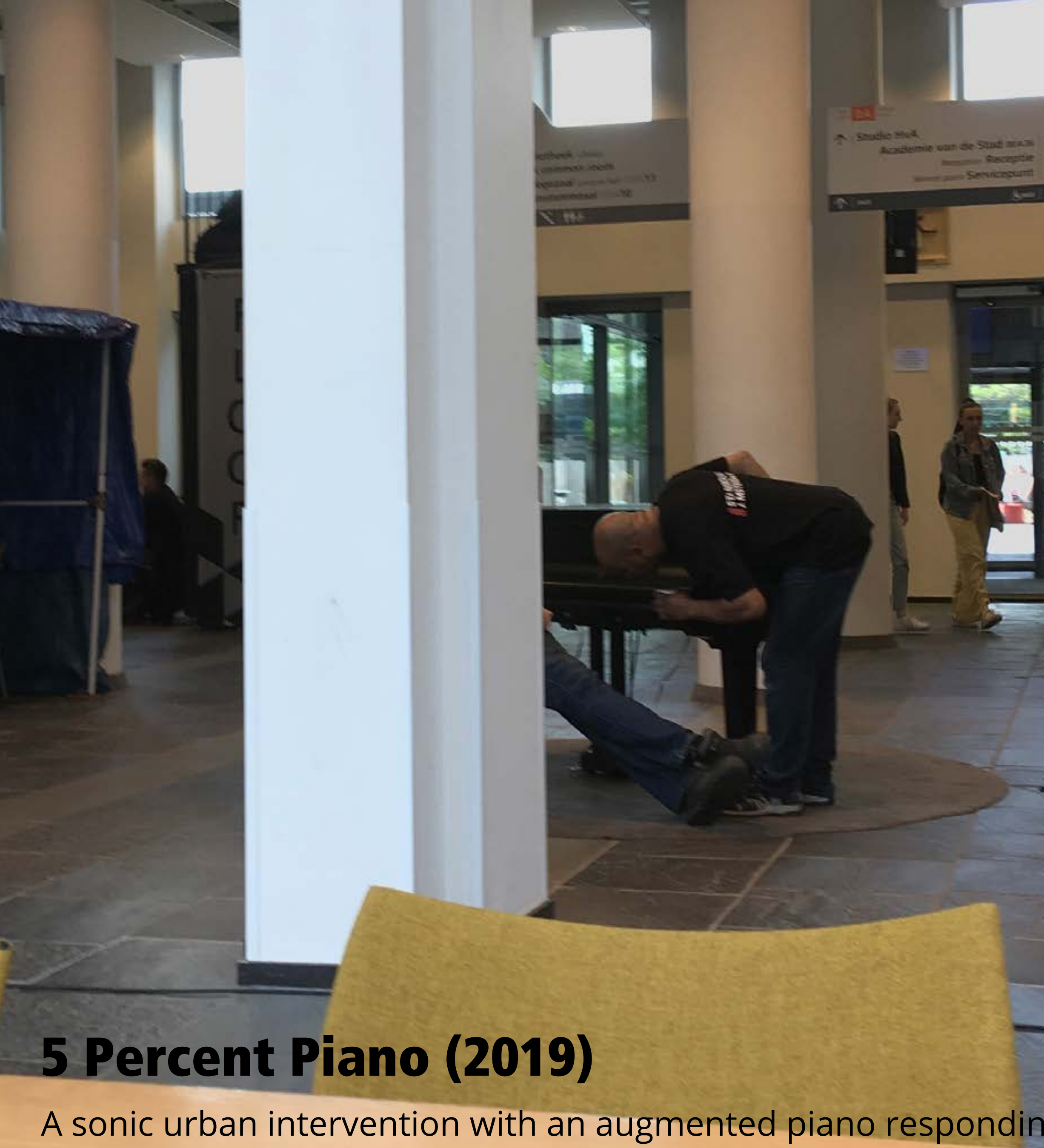
motion_detect



The Sound of Standing (2017)

Body sway data captured by an accelerometer sonified with vowel sounds.

[View the video](#)

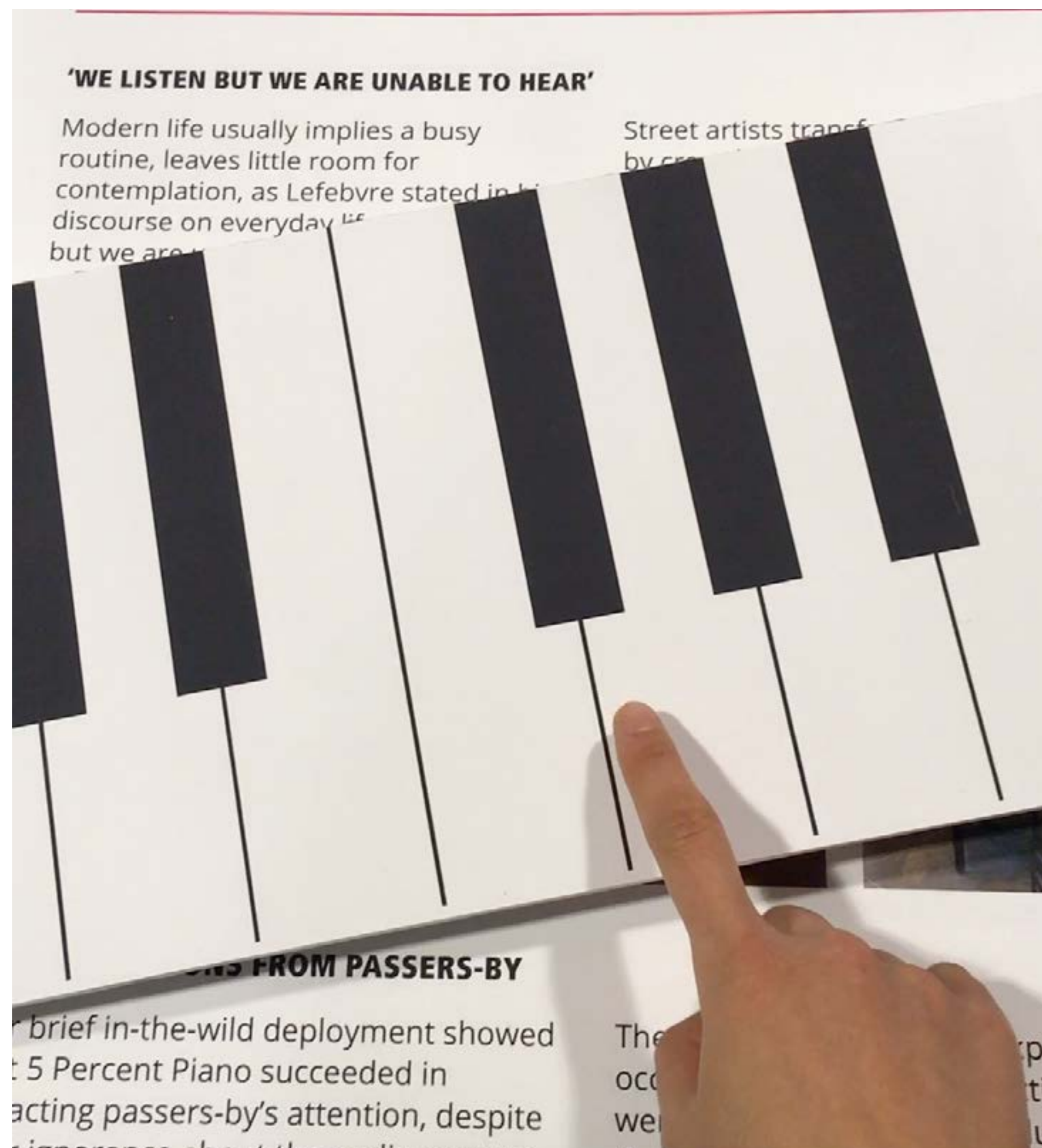


5 Percent Piano (2019)

A sonic urban intervention with an augmented piano responding to passers-by.

[View the video](#)

Made with Arduino



5 PERCENT PIANO: AN AUGMENTED PIANO WITH PLAYFUL AUDIO RESPONSE

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'WE LISTEN BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO HEAR'

Modern life usually implies a busy routine, leaves little room for contemplation, as Lefebvre stated in his discourse on everyday life: "... we look but we are unable to see."¹

Our ears too are filtering out incoming signals, the sound of traffic becomes the new silence².

Street artists transform the mundane by creating something that can make passers-by smile, think, or react.

Street pianos provide soundtracks and serendipity for the urban: hidden musicians are enticed to play, passers-by linger and casual conversations are initiated.

However, a public piano is not always appreciated as intended.

To (re-) draw attention to an often idle piano placed in the university building lobby, we augmented the piano with a motion-triggered, novel audio response that aims to surprise and playfully engage passers-by.

DESIGNING '5 PERCENT PIANO'

To raise awareness about current political affairs, we extracted an audio fragment from the Trump-May news conference on June 4th 2019, which transcribes into "5 percent, to 10 percent, to 15 percent, to 20 and then to 25 percent" referring to the tariff rates President Trump was suggesting to impose on Mexico. It often resulted in a repetition of '5 percent'. Thus we adopted the name '5 Percent Piano'.



MIXED REACTIONS FROM PASSERS-BY

Our brief in-the-wild deployment showed that 5 Percent Piano succeeded in attracting passers-by's attention, despite their ignorance about the audio content. The augmented audio response also encouraged acts of creative expressions like conventional piano play. Similar to a street concert where social gathering occurs, 5 Percent Piano served as a probe through which people started to engage with each other.

The most obvious playful exploration occurred when the construction workers were on their lunch break, during which they were more open for distraction. For those who were commuting or working, the repetitive audio went unnoticed or became a source of irritation.

We ponder whether the talking objects of the future will not just make us be able to listen, but hear again.



^[1] Henri Lefebvre (1991): Critique of everyday life. Formulations for a sociology of the everyday.



Scan the QR code to see and hear
5 Percent Piano at work.

PLAY ME

Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences

DIGITAL SOCIETY SCHOOL

An accompanied sonic poster with a touch interface.
[View the video](#)

Made with Bare conductive touch board



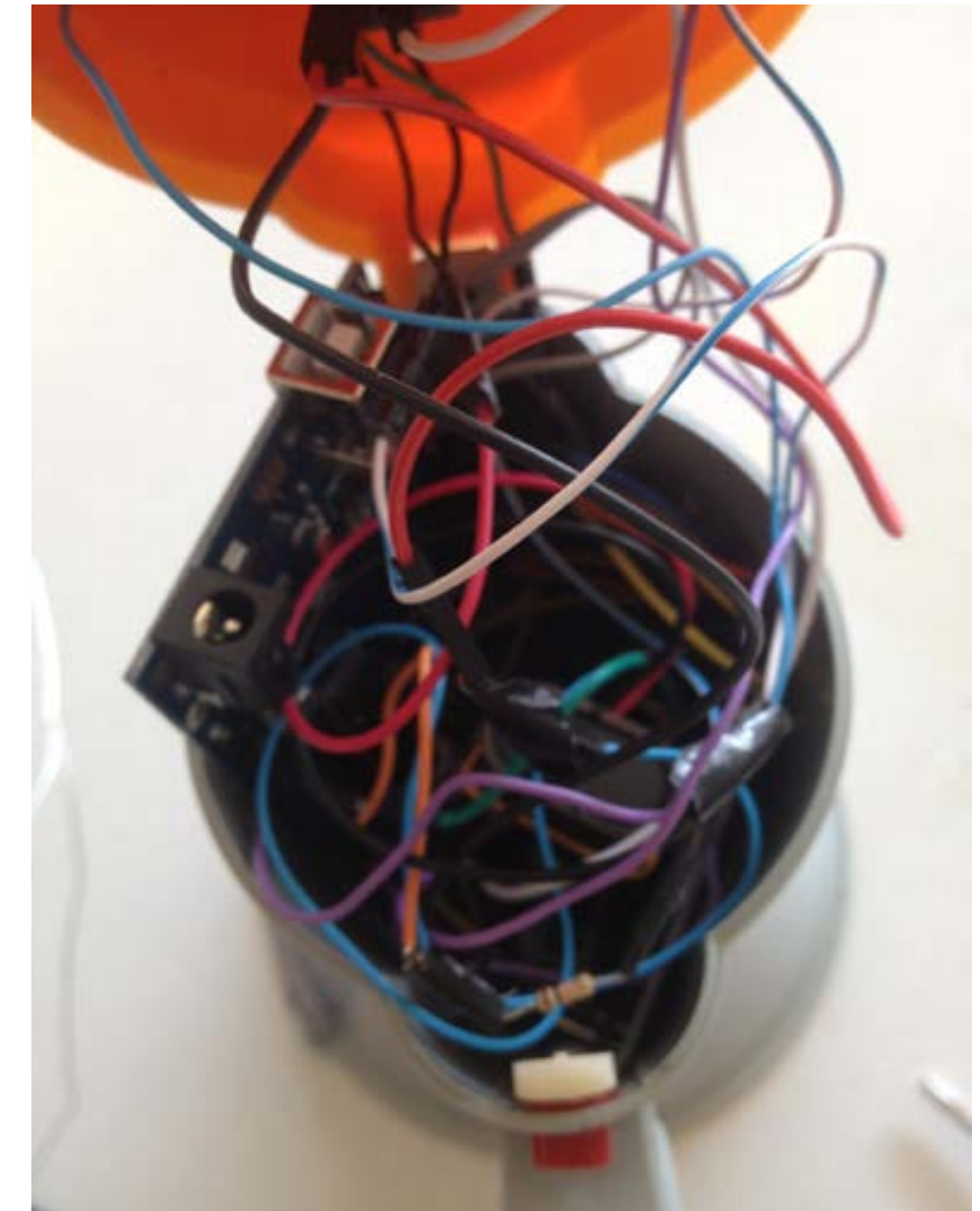
Flatlanders (2017)

A visual illusion installation.

Accustomed to flat built environments, our brain automatically corrects the tilted frame of reference, which results in the horizontally and vertically hung metal rods inside being perceived as tilted.

[Inside view of Flatlanders](#)

Photos taken at Media Technology Semester Project Exhibition @Hubspot, Leiden, NL, Feb 3-9, 2017
Design & build: Robin Bergman; Build: George Bouzias



Trump-et (2016)

A loudspeaker shouts out "I love China" by Trump every time someone speaks into it.

[View the video](#)