

In recent years, commercial systems based on artificial intelligence have emerged and have been gaining ground in the daily life of large cities, however almost imperceptibly to end users. We are in contact with these systems when we use translation services, product recommendation, object and person detection, and many other services. These systems are trained with large volumes of data, and, inevitably, present some type of ideological bias.

From the analysis of figures of contemporary art works using the Art Decoder* platform, we realized the possibility of looking at these systems from a critical point of view. We present this zine, with works selected collectively from the digital collection of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), with the concern to highlight some of the ideological biases present in these computer vision systems used commercially, which, as we have seen in our research, follow a capitalist, consumerist and sometimes misogynistic logic. In addition, we highlight other moments when our platform is unable to understand works of art resulting in interpretations of great poetic value.

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Good reading!

* Art Decoder is a platform created by our group and have been used since 2018 to reveal the behavior of commercial AIs (Amazon Rekognition, Facebook Detectron, Google Cloud Vision, Microsoft Azure, IBM Watson, Darknet YOLO and Clarify APIs) from use of contemporary art images.

** We are part of the Group of Critical Experiences in Digital Infrastructures (GECID), an activist group of researchers from different areas of knowledge located at the Innovation Center of the University of São Paulo / C4AI and coordinated by professor Fabio Cozman and artist Bruno Moreschi. Our work involves a set of experiences that aims to think and problematize contemporary infrastructures based on a logic different from that applied in technology centers in the Global North. We are interested in stimulating studies that think about technology not in an abstract way, but inserted in determined contexts, with social implications.