

Jake Elwes WORKS 2020

Zizi - Queering the Dataset

Cusp

Latent Space

Closed Loop

dada da ta

Digital Whispers

Auto Encoded Buddha

Machine Learning Porn

Digital Caress

Porn Saturation

Solid State

Taking a Phone for a Walk

Zizi - Queering the Dataset

*2019, multi-channel digital video,
135 minute loop
Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs*

First part of an ongoing project 'The Zizi Project'.

Zizi is a procession of faces of drag artists in constant transition generated from data using machine learning. Drag is a queer performance form that celebrates and challenges gender and otherness. It's loud, bold and beautiful. Zizi's gender, identity, race, whether they are real or artificial, is all uncertain.

Zizi tackles head-on the lack of representation in the training datasets often used by facial recognition systems. Zizi disrupts these systems by retraining them with the addition of drag and gender fluidity.

The work is a celebration of difference and ambiguity, which invites us to reflect on bias in our data driven society. If AI holds a mirror up to society, then Zizi applies the makeup.

Full curatorial text by Drew Hemment.

Instagram @zizidrag - machine learning generated captions and looks trained on drag profiles.

Zizi was originally commissioned as a seven channel video installation by Experiential AI at Edinburgh Futures Institute and Inspace.

Presented as site specific video installation with between 3 and 10 projected video channels.



4 stills from Zizi - Queering the Dataset 2019

CUSP

*2019, 4K digital video with audio,
13 minute loop
Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs*

A familiar childhood location on the Essex marshes is reframed by inserting images randomly generated by a neural network (GAN*) into this tidal landscape.

Initially trained on a photographic dataset, the machine proceeds to learn the embedded qualities of different marsh birds, in the process revealing forms that fluctuate between species, with unanticipated variations emerging without reference to human systems of classification.

Birds have been actively selected from among the images conceived by the neural network, and then combined into a single animation that migrates from bird to bird, accompanied by a soundscape of artificially generated bird song. The final work records these generated forms as they are projected, using a portable perspex screen, across the mudflats in Landermere Creek. The work both augments and disrupts the natural ecology of the location, as flocks of native birds enter a visual dialogue with these artificial ones.

*Neural networks are programming models which are biologically inspired and learn from observing data. GANs (generative adversarial networks) are neural networks which learn to mimic through generation and refinement.



Still from CUSP 2019



Installation shot of CUSP,
Zabludowicz collection 2019

Latent Space

2017, digital video, 45 minute loop

Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs

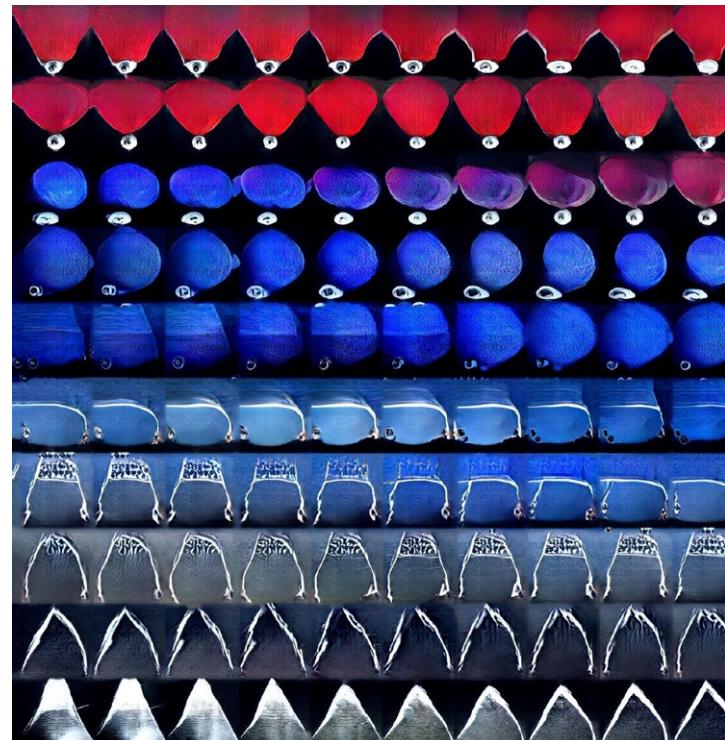
Special thanks to Anh Nguyen et al. at Evolving-AI
for their work on GANs.

What happens when an AI algorithm that has
been trained to generate humanly recognisable
original images is freed to create images at will?

Latent Space is a video snap-shot of a generative
adversarial neural network, an AI algorithm
trained using 14.2 million photographs,
continuously producing new images – a digital
subconscious conceiving of new images and
visualising a ‘latent space’.



Installation image of Latent Space at the Slade Degree Show 2017



Sequence of frames from Latent Space

Closed Loop

*2017, 2-channel digital video,
200 minute loop
Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs*

Closed Loop is a recording of two artificial intelligence models conversing with each other – one with words the other with images – in a never-ending feedback loop. The words of one describe the images of the other, which then seeks to describe the words with a fresh image... Two neural networks getting lost in their own nuances, sparking and branching off each other as they converse in a perpetual game of AI Chinese whispers.

Two neural networks: a language captioning recurrent neural network writing what it sees in the images generated, and a generative neural network generating images responding to the words generated.

Two datasets to train the algorithms: a dataset of 4.1 million captioned images to train a language network, and the Imagenet dataset of 14.2 million photographs to train the image generator network.

Collaborative project with Roland Arnoldt. Special thanks to Anh Nguyen et al. at Evolving-AI for their work on GANs.



Installation image of Closed Loop at the Slade Degree Show 2017



Single channel rendering of two channel video installation

dada da ta

2016, Digital Video, 20 minute loop

Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs

In 'dada da ta' over 50 hours of interviews have been sourced from YouTube then processed using the IBM Watson AI speech to text programme to transcribe the interviews and a custom-made computer programme to extract in time order the instances of the participants speaking in numbers and then remove the words from the source videos – leaving the interview's chronology intact yet reduced to a stream of numbers:

"One, one billion, one million, one hundred million, two billion, one, two hundred, ten thousand, eighteen thousand, two, two, two, ten, fifteen, nine thousand." Elon Musk.



Stills from dada da ta

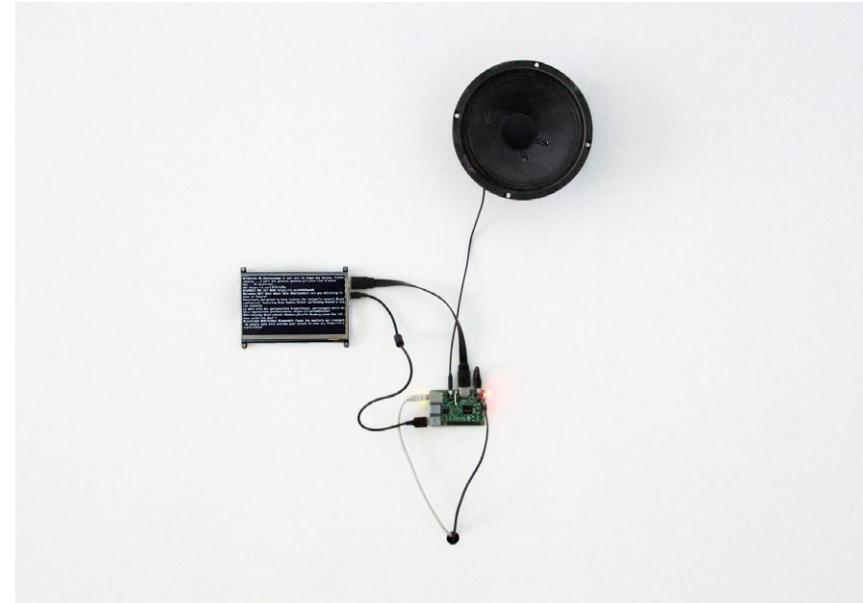


Installation image of
dada da ta at Swiss
Mobilair 2017

Digital Whispers

*2016, mixed media (raspberry pi computer, LCD screen, speaker and custom program), 60x50x10 cm
Edition of 3 + 2 artist proofs*

Tweets in a 2 mile radius of the pieces' installation are displayed on an LCD screen while the computer simultaneously whispers the tweets as a live performance.



Installation image of Digital Whispers at Swiss Mobiliar, Bern 2017



Installation image of Digital Whispers at the Bloomberg New Contemporaries , Baltic 2017

Auto Encoded Buddha

*2016, mixed media (monitor, computer running customised A.I. software, buddha)
Edition of 3 + 2 artist proofs*

Hommage to Nam June Paik's 'TV Buddha' 1976.
Collaboration with Roland Arnoldt.

A Buddha statue watches the computer attempting to draw its own image. An artificial intelligence model was trained on 5000 images of Buddha, yet the computer struggles to depict the Buddha's essence.



Installation image of Auto Encoded Buddha, Slade 2016

Machine Learning Porn

2016, digital video, 12 minute loop

Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs

Inspiration from Gabriel Goh.

A convolutional neural network, an AI, was trained using Yahoo's explicit content model for identifying pornography, which learnt by being fed a database of thousands of graphic images. The neural network was then re-engineered to generate pornography from scratch.

Machine Learning Porn is a 12 minute looped film that records the AI's pornographic fantasies.



12 non-consecutive stills from
Machine Learning Porn



Installation render of Machine
Learning Porn

Digital Caress

*2015, large format inkjet prints on
aluminium sheet, 110x60cm
Series of 9 unique prints*

These gestures are the residue on the screen of an iPhone from human touch (the grease of one's finger). The gestures and twitches are often recognisable according to the app. For example, the swiping left and right of Tinder, and the imprint of stubble from a phone call. Each image derives from a different app, displaying the material remnants of interacting with a virtual window.



Tinder



Calculator



Facebook



Camera



Grindr



Instagram



Phone



Sketchbook



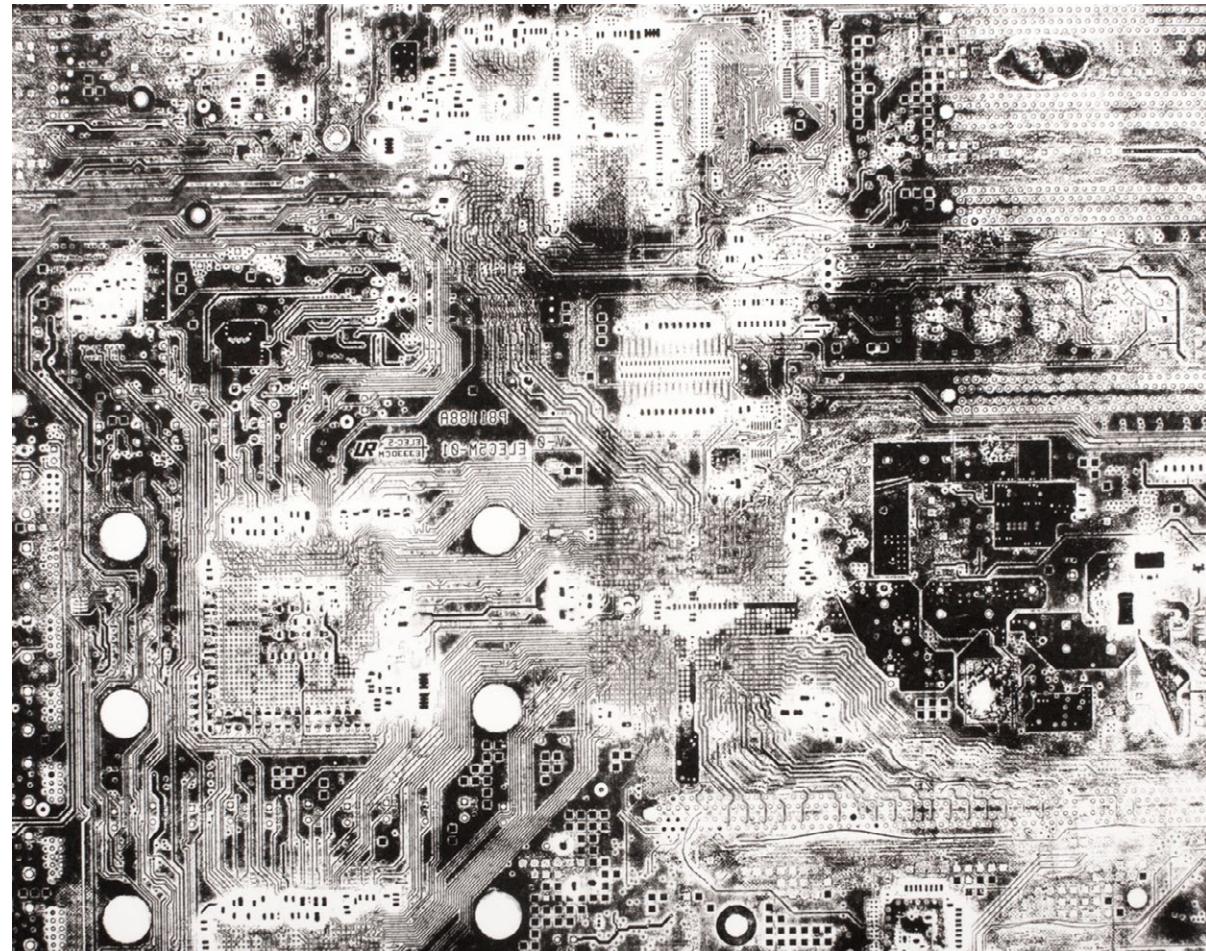
Tinder

Solid State

*2015, Relief and Intaglio Prints, 35x27cm
& 24x19cm*

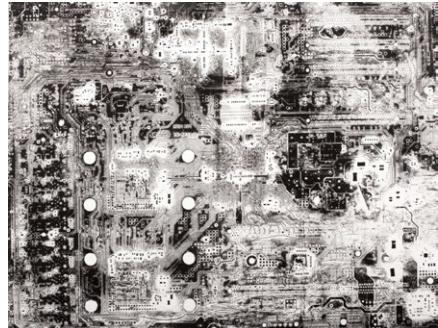
Series of 8 and 6 unique prints

Relief and Intaglio prints made directly from circuit board surfaces. The circuit boards were prepared by burning to remove components then run through a printing press.



Solid State, Component Series #1

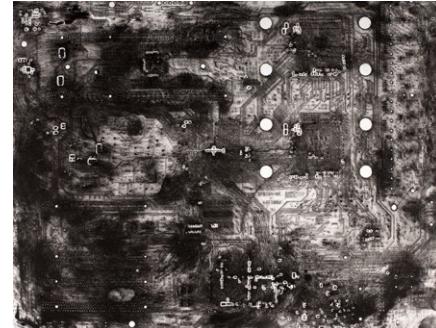
Solid State, Component Series - plate size 35x27cm



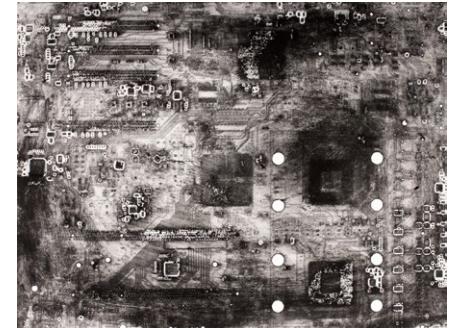
Solid State #1



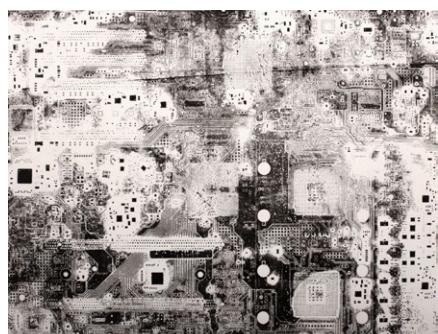
Solid State #2



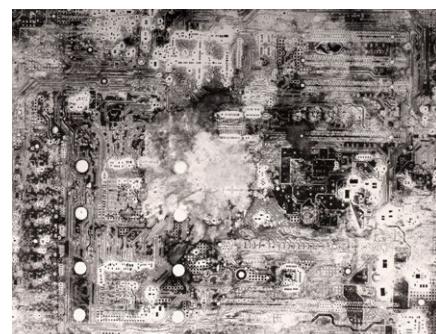
Solid State #3



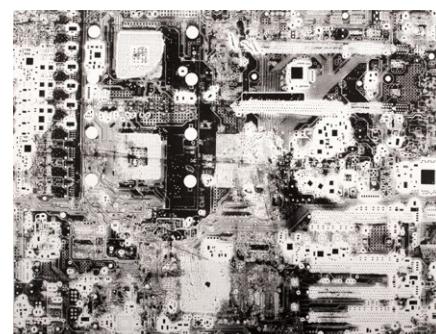
Solid State #4



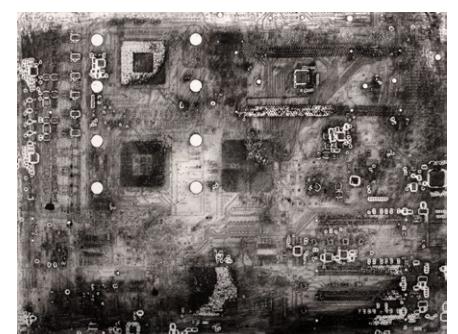
Solid State #5



Solid State #6

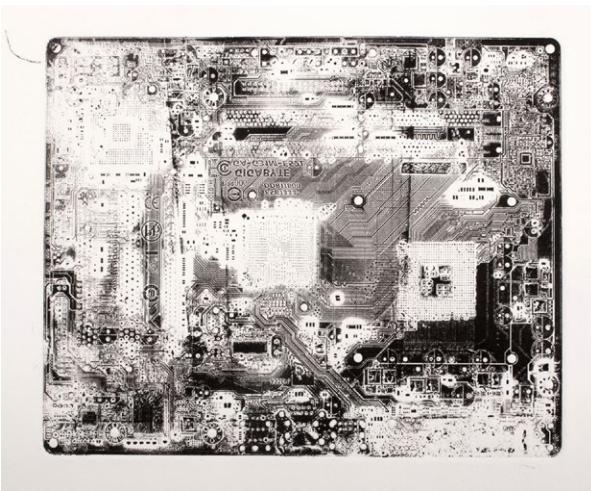


Solid State #7

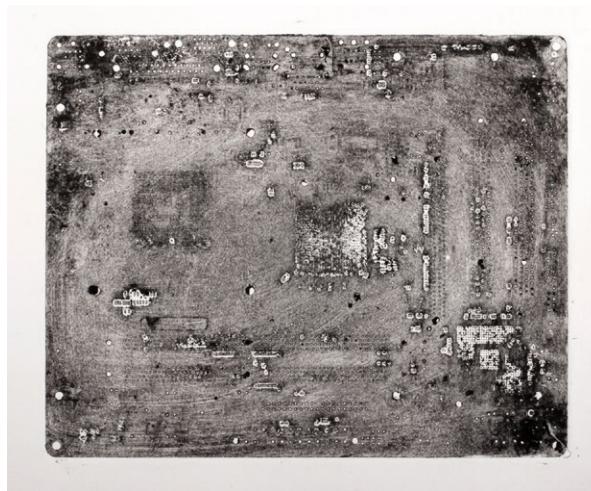


Solid State #8

Solid State, Circuit Series - plate size 24x19cm



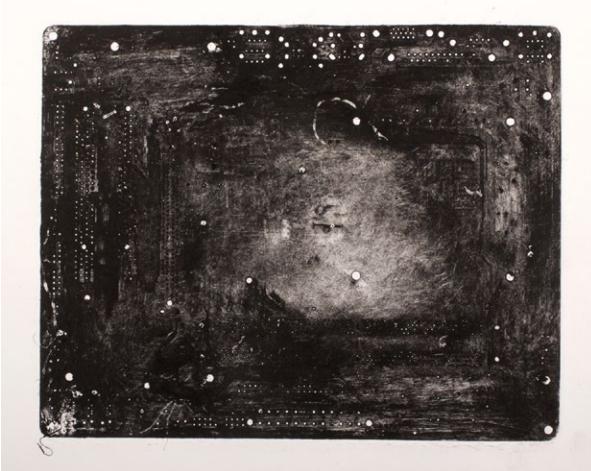
Circuit #1



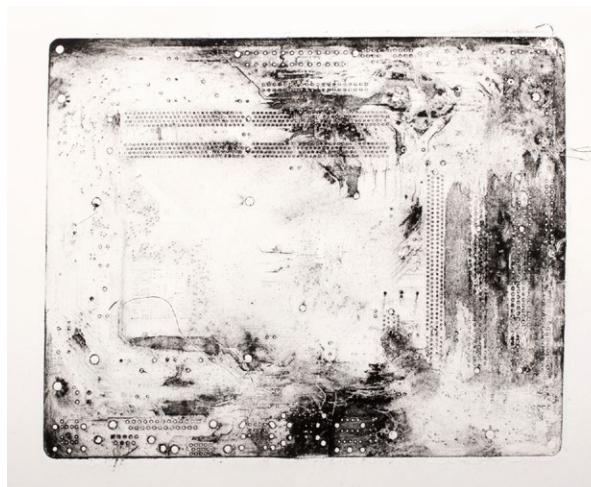
Circuit #2



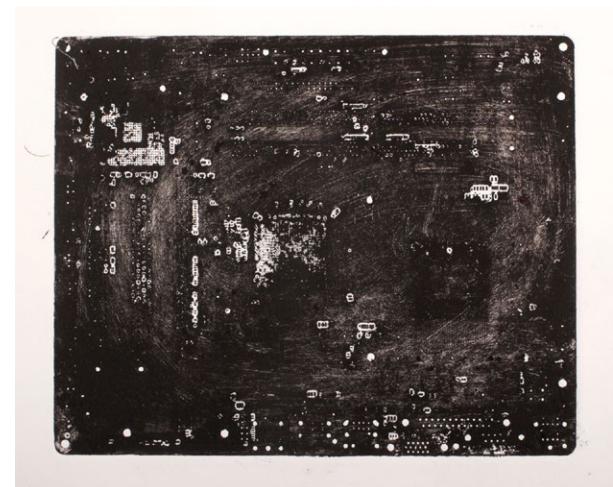
Circuit #3



Circuit #4



Circuit #5



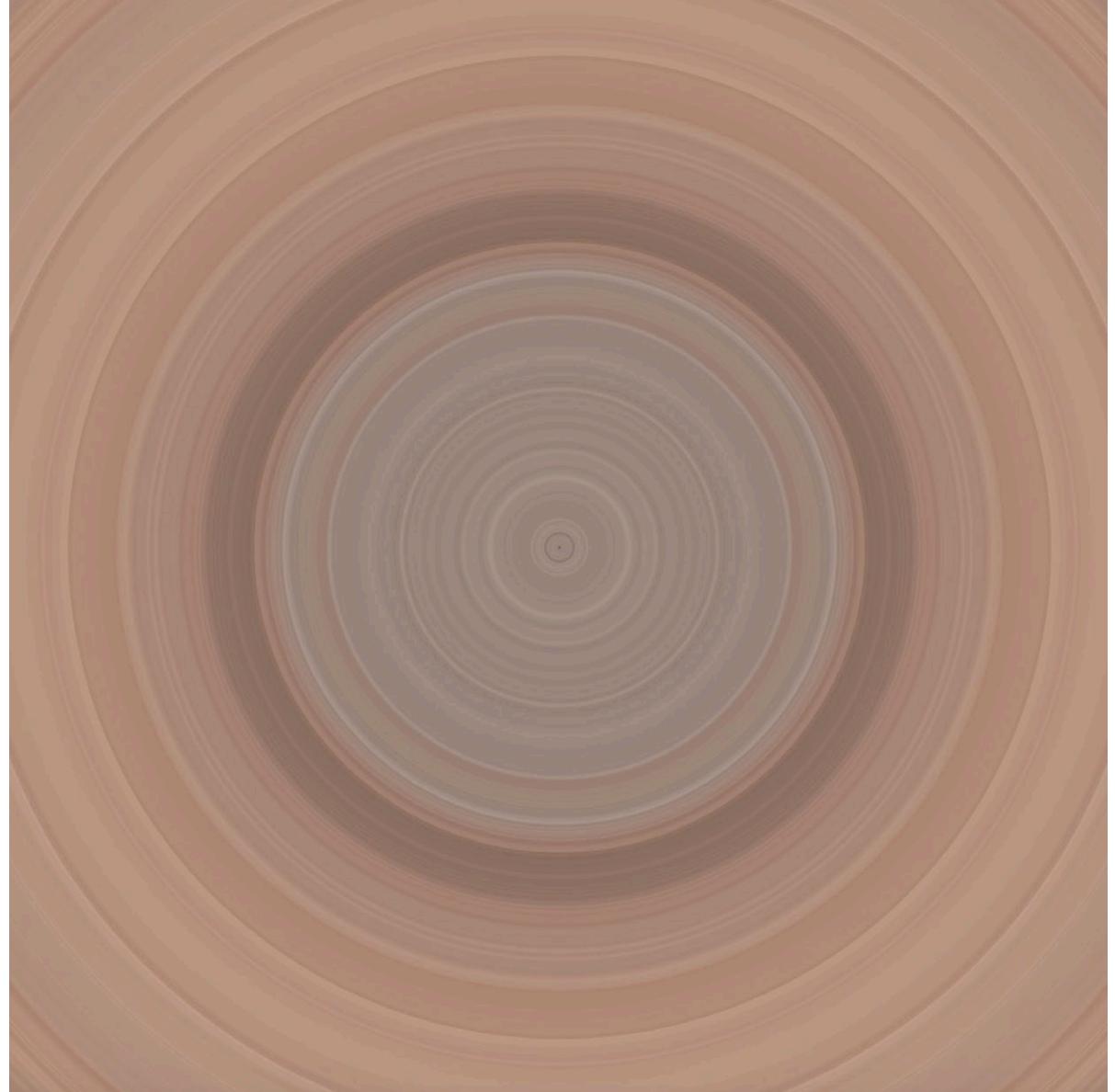
Circuit #6

Porn Saturation

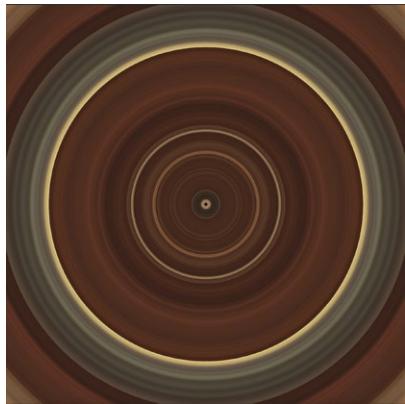
2015, inkjet prints, pearl paper, 55x55cm

Series of ten unique prints

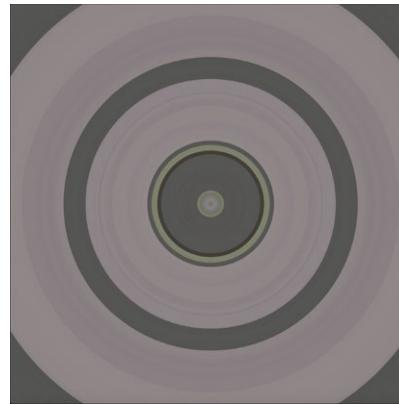
Each concentric circle represents the average colour (emanating outwards from the start of the clip) for the 10 most viewed pornographic videos on the internet.



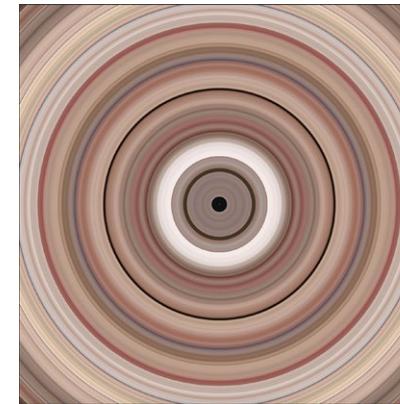
Porn Saturation #8
36,355,897 – CHARITY TAKES IT HARD FOR AN ANAL
CREAMPIE



Porn Saturation #1
139,352,631 – KIM
KARDASHIAN SEX
TAPE WITH RAY J



Porn Saturation #2
49,150,362 – MILF
FUCKS DAUGHTERS
BOYFRIEND



Porn Saturation #3
48,868,179 – TEEN
MOM FARRAH
ABRAHAM SEX
VIDEO



Porn Saturation #4
45,300,861 – KIM
K SEX TAPE PART
2 – PORNHUB
EXCLUSIVE



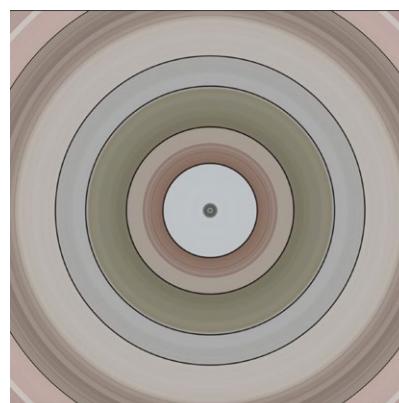
Porn Saturation #5
43,589,343 – TEEN
LATINA SQUIRTS
WHILE GETTING
CREAMPIED



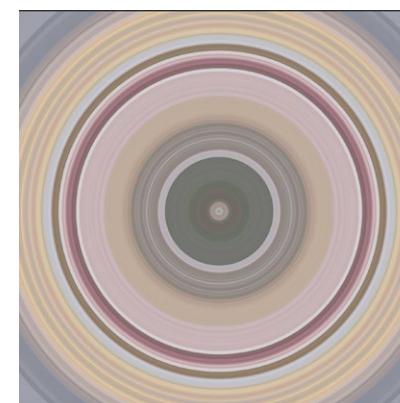
Porn Saturation #6
40,051,505 –
INTENSE ANAL
FUCKING



Porn Saturation #7
37,991,743 – BIG
BOOBS SHIONE
COOPER RIDES
MARK'S STIFF DICK



Porn Saturation #9
33,950,378 –
EXXXTRASMALL
– STEP BROTHER
TAKES ADVANTAGE
OF LITTLE SISTER

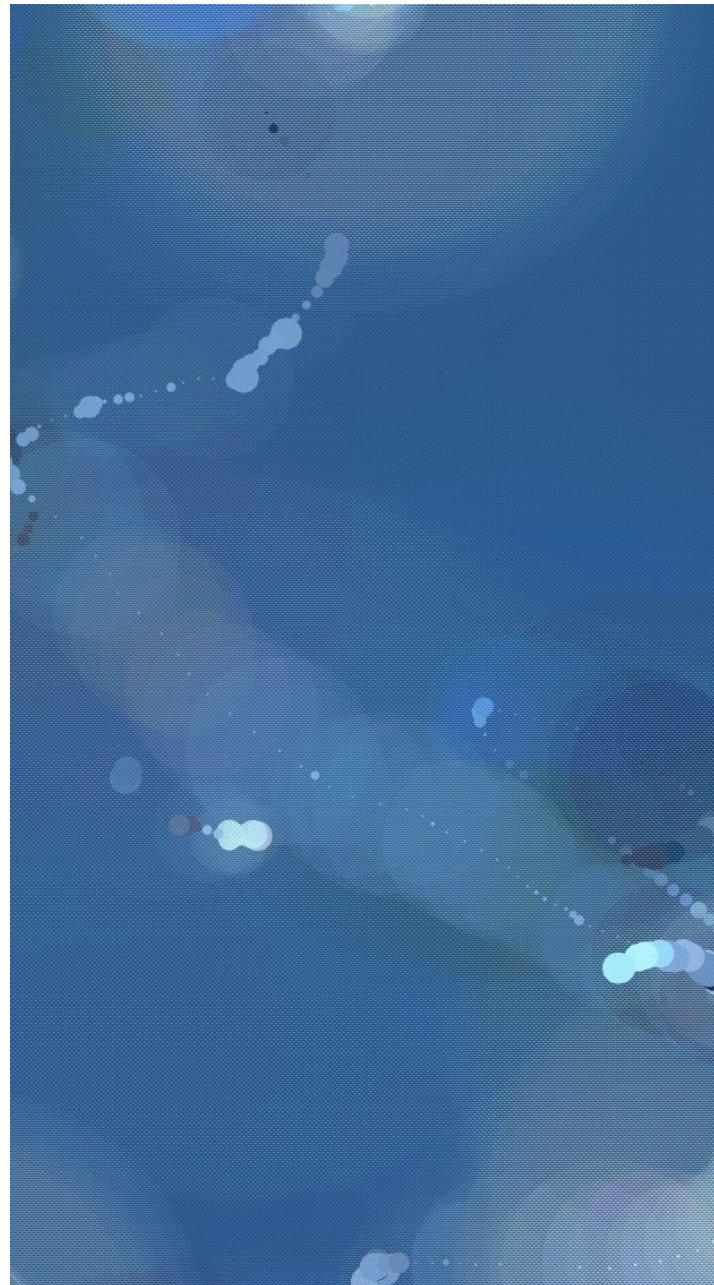


Porn Saturation #10
30,745,787 – MIA
KHALIFA STEPMOM
JULIANA VEGA
FUCKS AND SUCKS
HER BOYFRIENDS
COCK

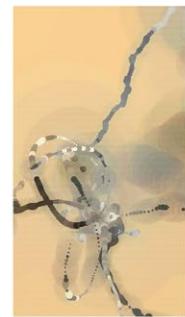
Taking a Phone for a Walk

*2015, inkjet prints, somerset paper,
55x30cm, containing 5 individual
mounted prints.*
Series of 3 + 1 artist proof

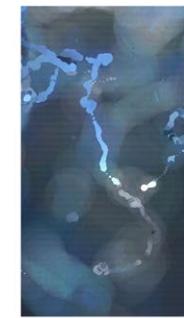
iPhone app which generates images solely from the motion and colours from the camera. The app captures the experience of three walks, similar to that of a memory image. Walks from Central London, Hampstead Heath and Chicago.



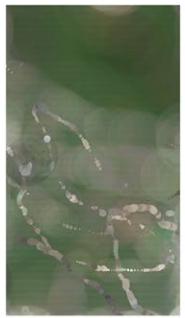
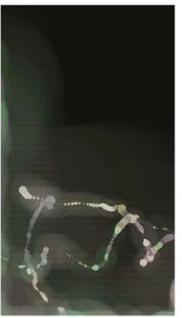
12 stills taken from random
points of Latent Space



Take a Phone for a Walk #1
Five Walks around Bloomsbury, London



Take a Phone for a Walk #2
Five Walks in Downtown Chicago



Take a Phone for a Walk #3
Five Walks around Hampstead Heath, London