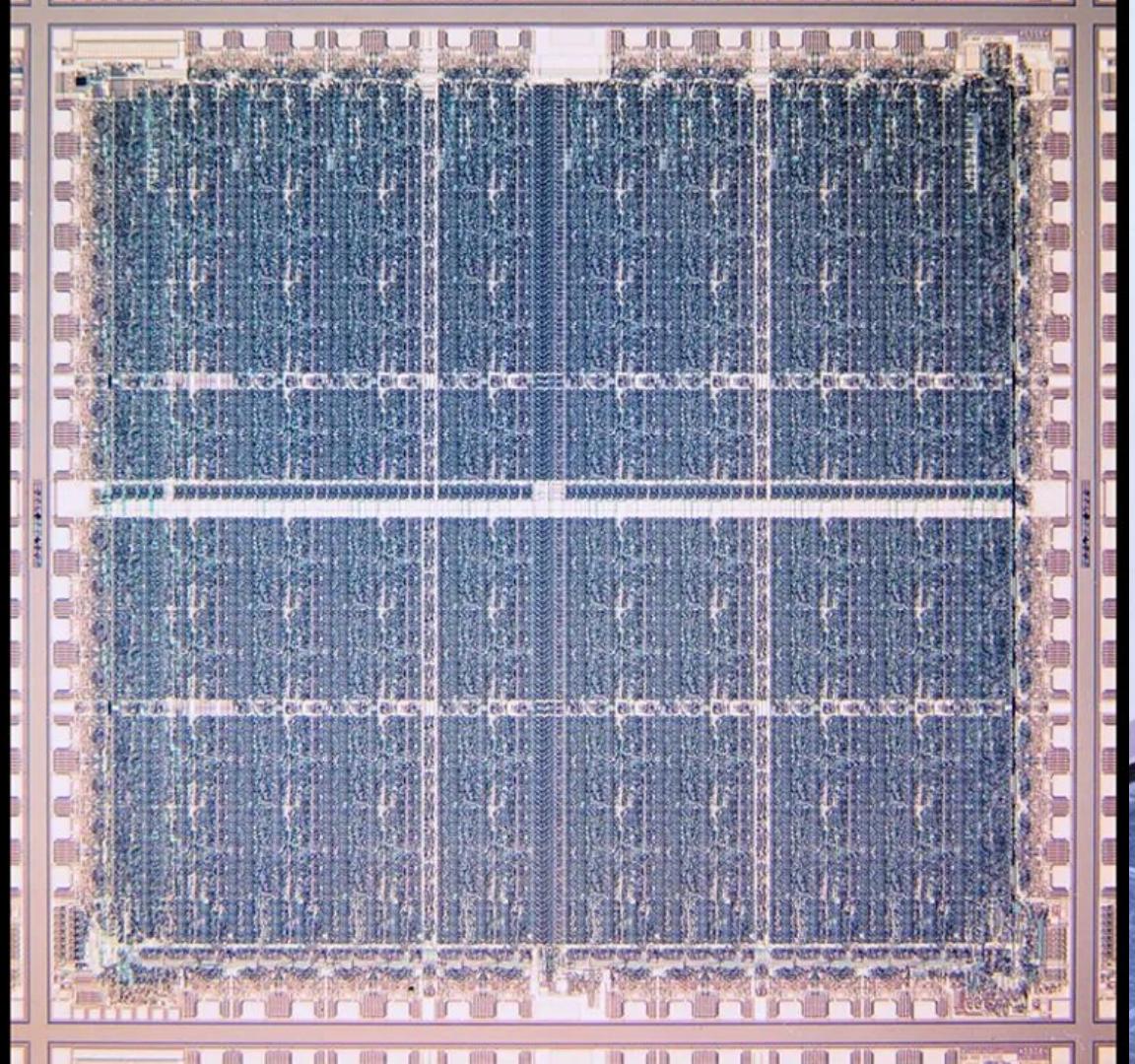
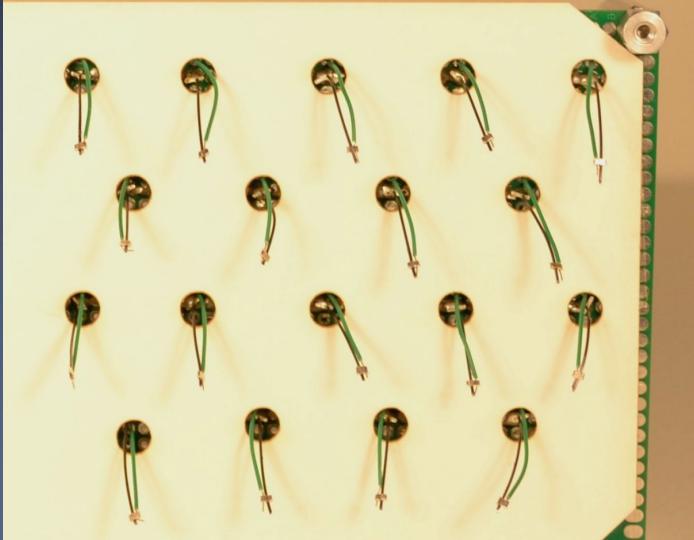
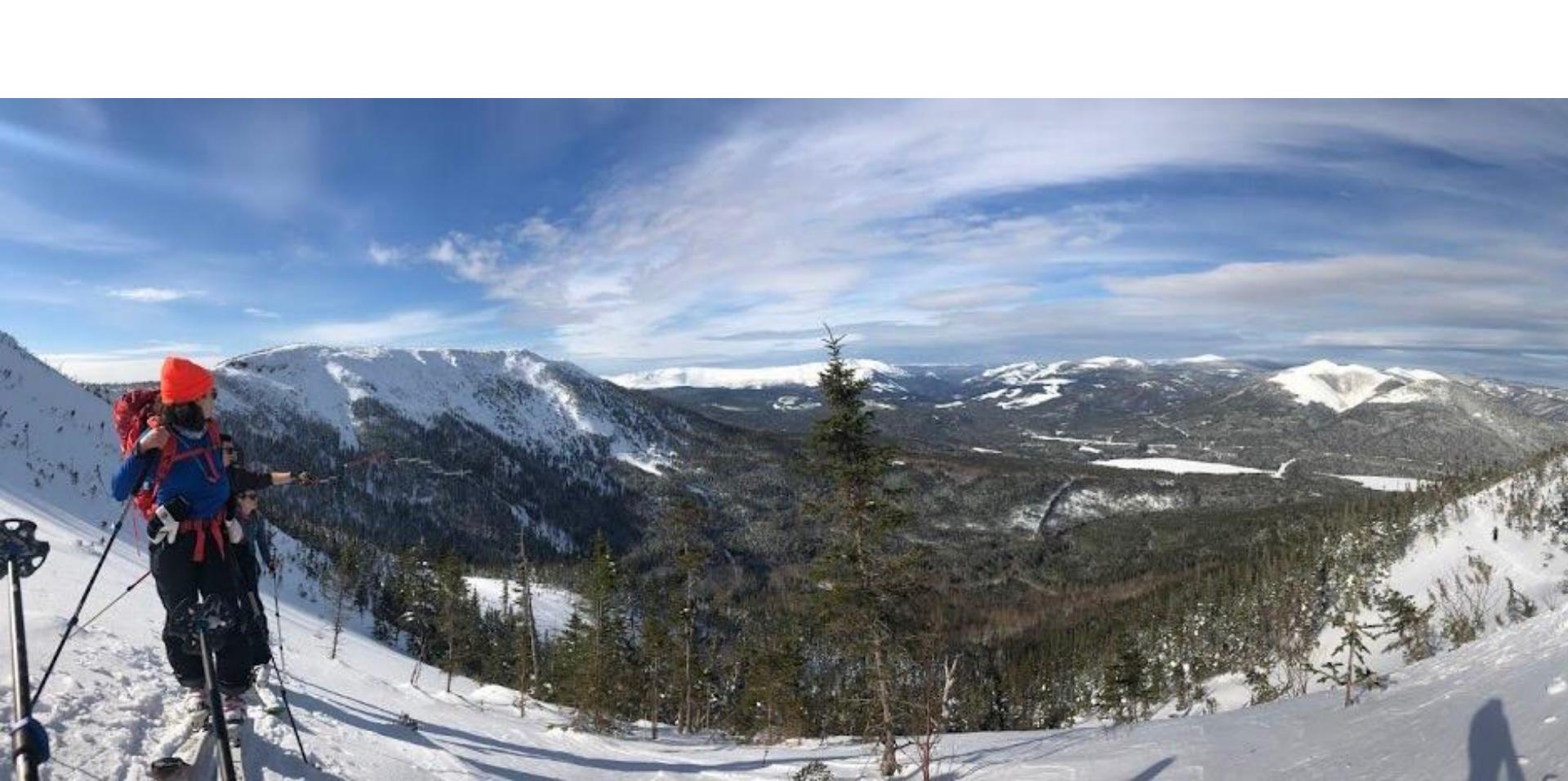


Major Studio One: Final Project Proposal

Lauria Clarke
October 20, 2021







Parc national de la Gaspésie
Quebec, Canada

Questions: What do I want to know?

natural/artificial

what makes people uncomfortable?

why do those things make people uncomfortable?

why are people uncomfortable when they can't tell if something is manmade or natural?

why are natural things scary?

how can I make manmade things that are scary in the same way that natural things are?

movement

how do things move?

how can you achieve complex motion through simple systems?

what are the simplest systems with the most complex motion?

do they all have something in common?

physical/digital

how can the digital become physical?

why should the digital become physical?

when is that shift appropriate?

when is it not appropriate?

why is this so alluring as a topic?

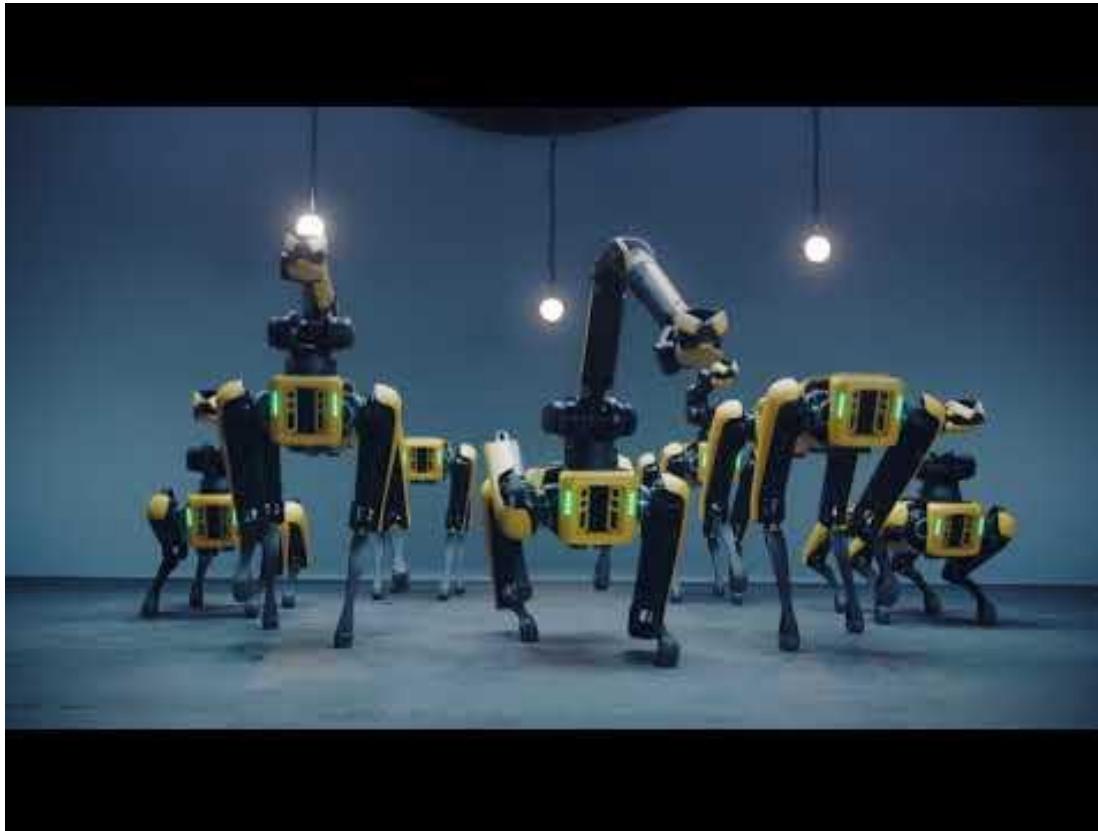
movement



digital/physical



natural/artificial

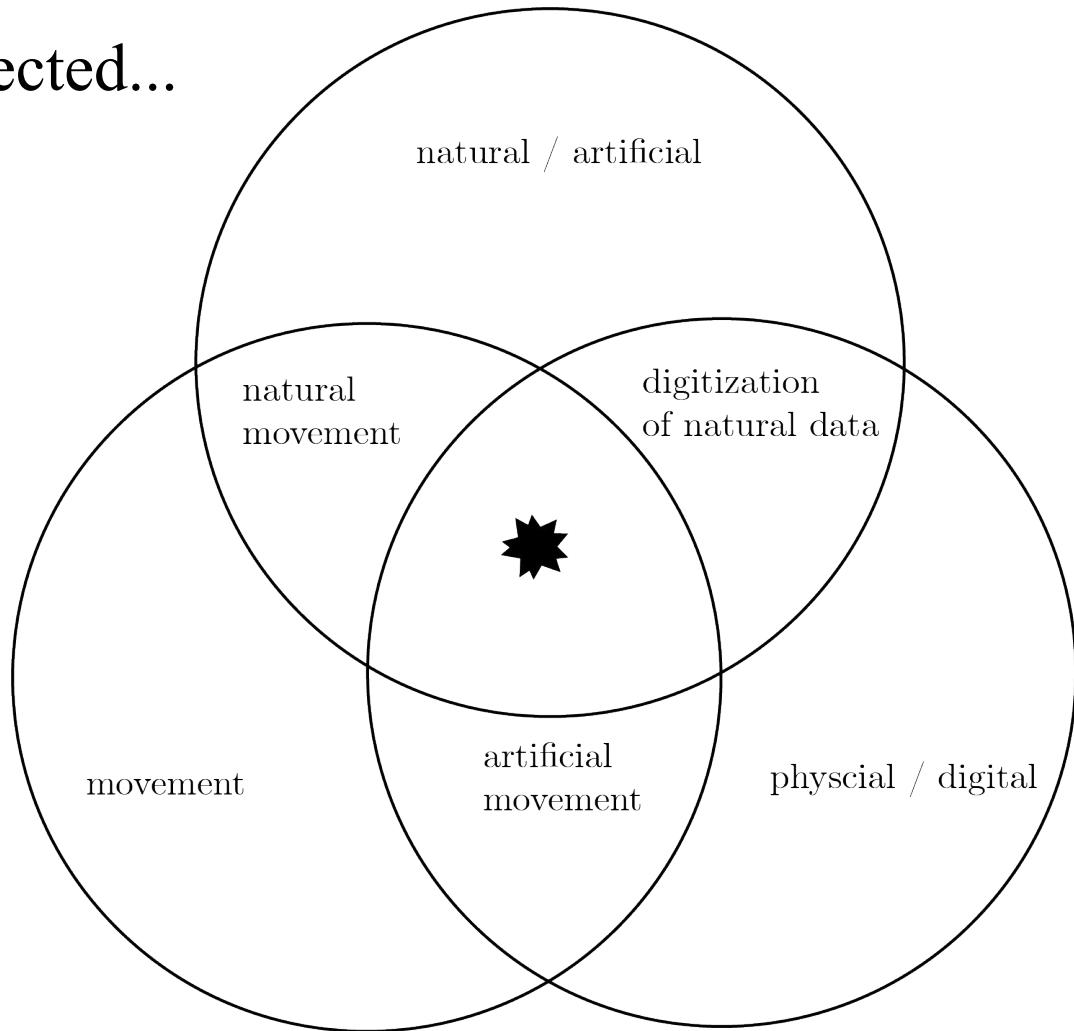




Well, these things are connected...



- this is movement that:**
- appears natural
- exists physically
- is created by human technology
- may be based on digital information



Fly Revolver
David Bowen



How can I create situations which cause people to question whether something is natural or artificial?

Why is this uncertainty important?

Why is this uncertainty important?

What can this emotion be used for?

James Prosek

What can art provide in this time when our earth is indeed looking vulnerable to rapid and regrettable change induced by human influence?

Mark Dion

Your question answers itself - the job of the artist-naturalist is precisely to interrogate the question of nature when it is subject to rapid change and its very definition is evolving in unprecedented ways.

In Search of Nature, James Prosek and Mark Dion in conversation

Why is this uncertainty important?

Because the definition of Nature and what is natural is changing more quickly with every passing moment.

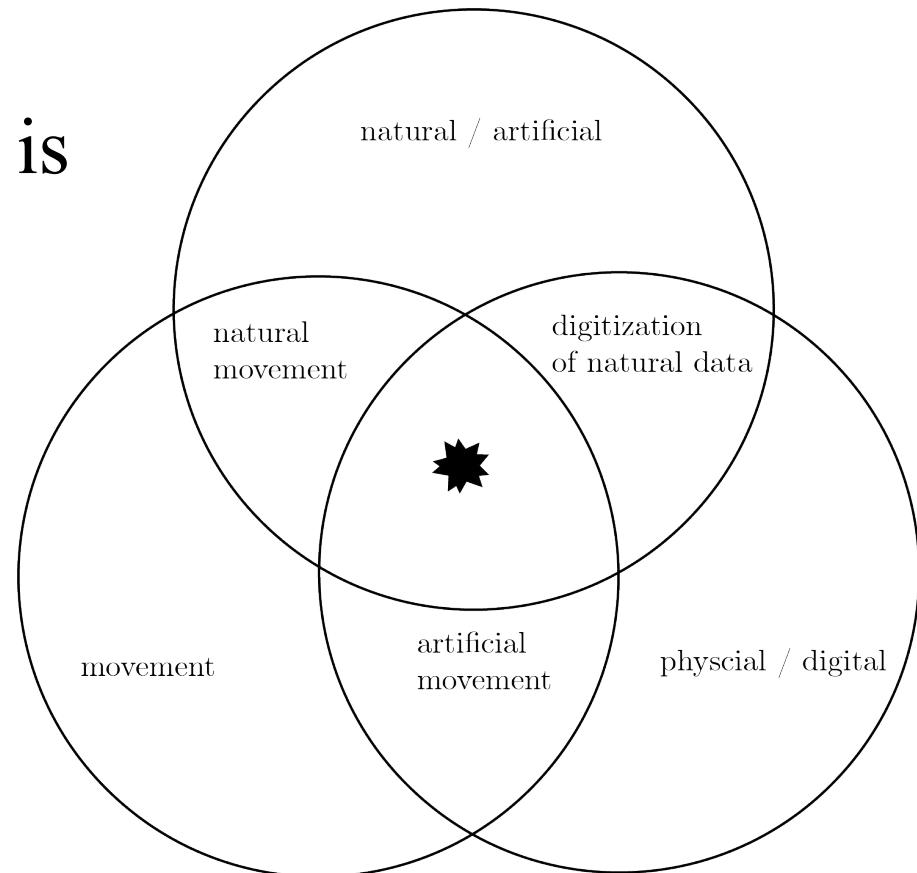
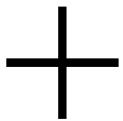
Why is this uncertainty important?

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What can this emotion be used for?

Uncertainty forces us to examine whether our current perception and beliefs reflect the world around us.

How can I create situations
which cause people to
question whether something is
natural or artificial?



What could this project look like?



a machine that breathes

the speed, depth, and wetness of the breathing
varies in response to COVID-19 data

it can sound like different people and animals

it should be natural in the auditory component
and artificial in the visual component

What questions would such a work address?

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Who holds the power to influence our breath?

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Who holds the power to influence our breath?

What emotion is conveyed in breath?

How far does breath as metaphor extend into our relationship with the natural world?

Precedents / Prior Work

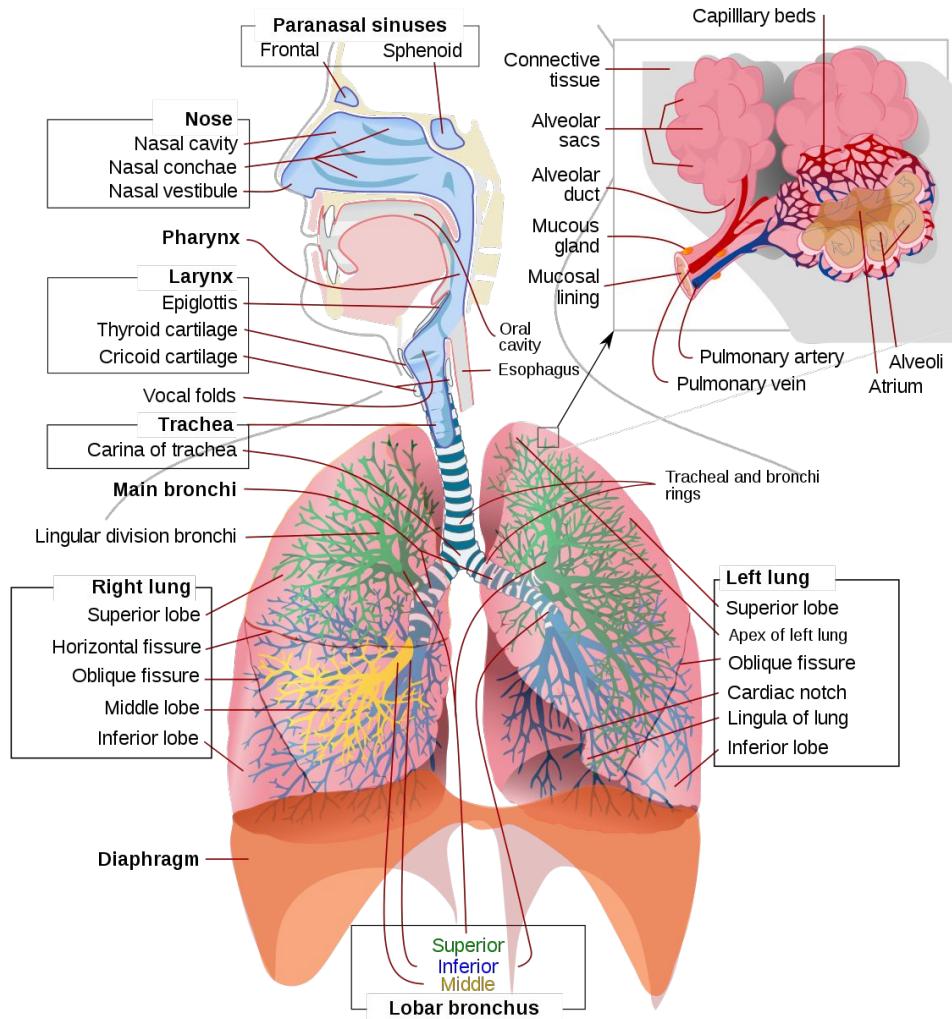
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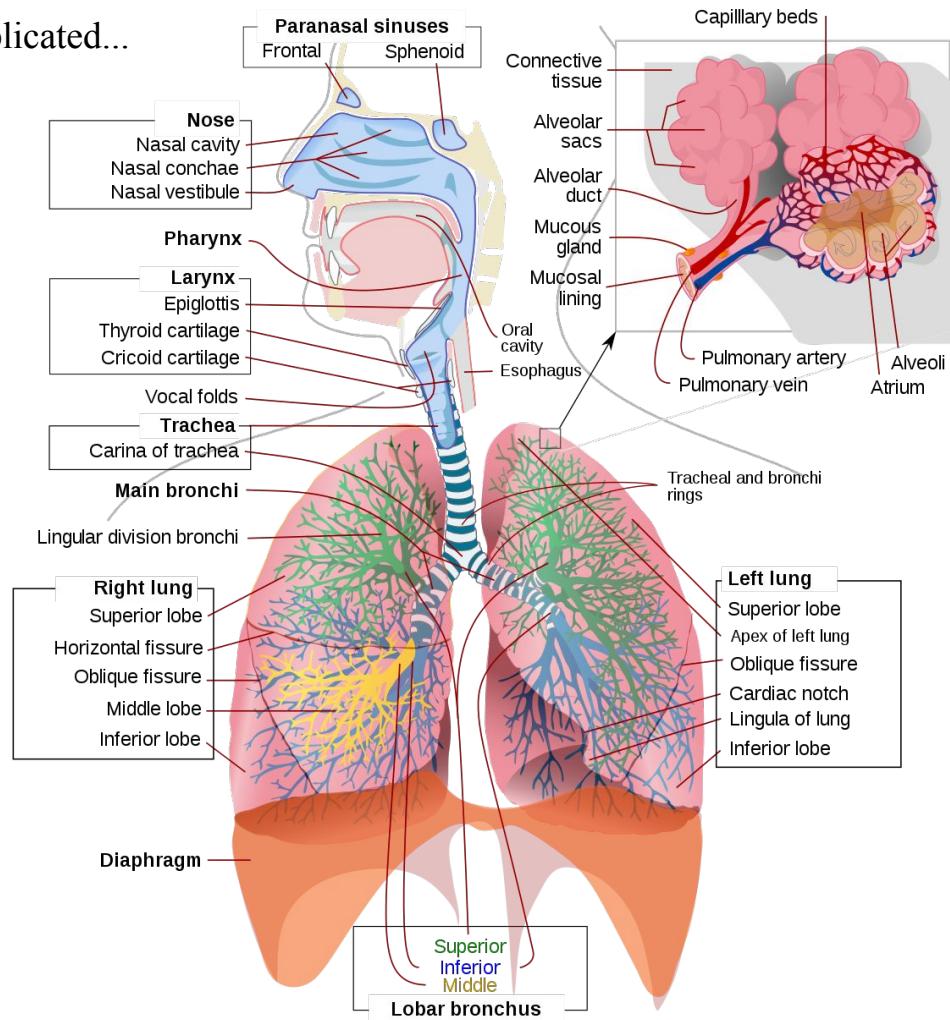
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...lots of people build ventilators it doesn't seem like anyone has built a mechanical respiratory system before...

Better start with the real-life model then!



ooooohhhh this is very complicated...



...let's simplify

actuation

storage

modulation

actuation

~~— storage —~~

modulation

a few prototypes:

actuation

How is air moved into and out of the system:
the diaphragm



modulation

How / where air is shaped to produce breath noises:

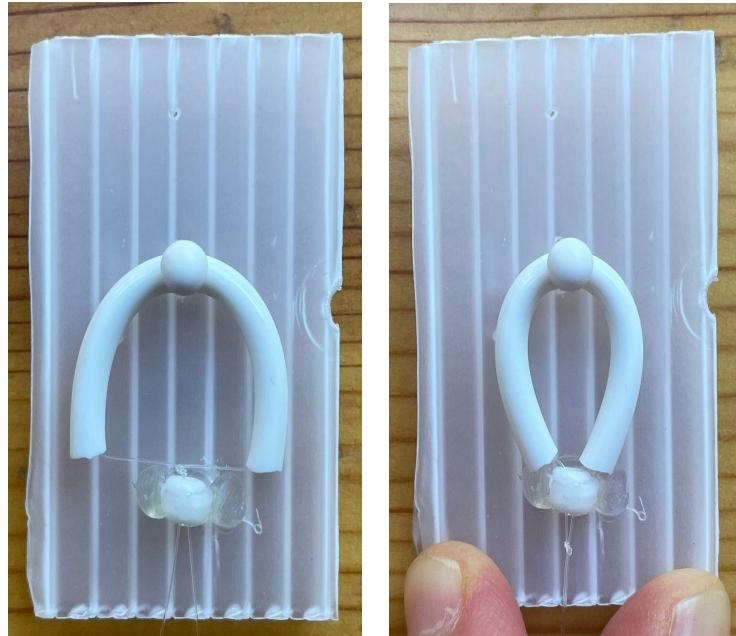
brachea

trachea

larynx

mouth

sinuses



While I have your attention, one more prototype ;)



Thanks!

references

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some mechanism that simulates a scurrying
trapped animal the type and frequency of motion
can be changed to cause the viewer to guess
different things are trapped inside

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surface composed of components which raise and
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using ev film, create a transparent surface that emulated the pattern created by the shadows of swaying leaves

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fish bone instrument

use fish bones being plucked to make noises that can
be electrically enhanced and generate some shadows
from the fish bones moving...these will inherently be a
little bit scary

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What knowledge do I posses which is not represented here?

What perspective can I contribute to this space?

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What knowledge do I posses which is not represented here?

What perspective can I contribute to this space?

Which aspects of this work can I identify as "unexplored"?

The Nature of Breath

This is a machine that breathes where, the speed, depth, and "wetness" of the breathing varies in response to COVID 19 data. It should be naturalistic in the auditory component and artificial in the visual component.

Intent

How/why/when is breath an indicator of life?

What does breath mean if it is not an indicator of life?

How fragile is breath?

Are we in control of our own breath?

How far does breath as metaphor extend into our relationship with the natural world?

Does the juxtaposition of visual and auditory effects cause us discomfort?



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What are visual and auditory cues that designate something as natural?

noises

breath

scrape

scuffle

rustle

thump

moan

chirp

squeak

motion

wiggle

scurry

fly

flap

trip

shadows

breathing

texture

furry

rough

soft

wet

sticky

slimy

color

green

brown

blue

...color is
a tricky
one

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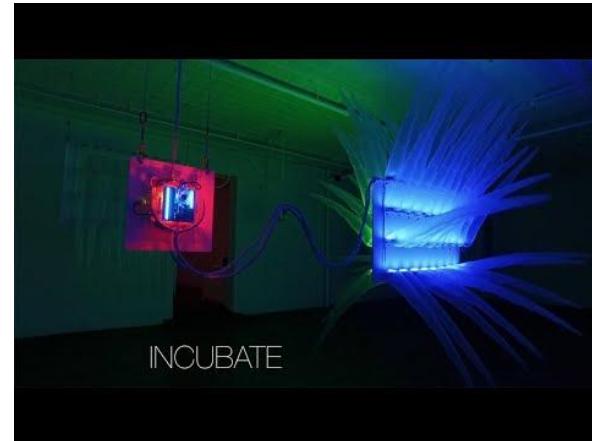
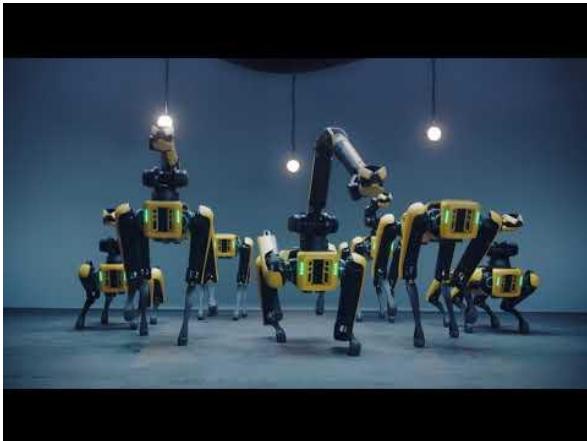
things that move in nature which make me uncomfortable:



things that move in nature which fascinate me:

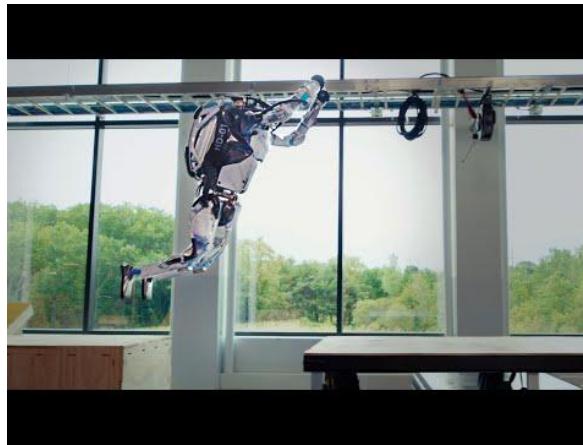


artificial things that move in natural ways:



artificial things that move in artificial ways:





Questions: Who / What / Where do I want to be?

who

someone who is serious about the subject matter at hand, but leaves self importance out of it
someone who is silly
someone who is listening

who uses technology

to reveal what might be overlooked
to make things move
to explore the natural world in new context
to cause others to reflect on the natural world
to shift perspective away from what is commonly expected of specifically digital technologies

who uses teaching

to help others to develop clarity of thought and language to define and express their own creativity
to help others to learn technical skills which can be leveraged to advance and embody their ideas
to help others listen more closely to the world around them

exists where

where I do not feel as though employment is solely a means to buy myself more time

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when is it not appropriate?

why is this so alluring as a topic?

teaching/creativity

what makes a "good" teacher?

how can I become a better teacher?

what do teaching and creativity have in common within my practice?

how does the communication of teaching inform internal dialog?

silly

why is everyone so serious?

what's at stake?

Can you describe an encounter with something - object, sensation, situation - where you were unsure if it was of artificial or of natural origin?

Alex

landscaping, walking around ground that's been manicured, fake grass, fake rocks

Rama

on certain hikes, there are parts which have rocks and natural elements, but they're so well defined that you don't really know if it's because people have been there so often it's been created by people

Smitha

my aunt had posted something on instagram, wasn't sure if it was a painting or a photo, could've been a aerial photo or a painting of a water body

Emily

when I moved from vegas to seattle, I asked if a lake was real or manmade

also, on the beach you find lots of items that could be manmade or natural but the sand action erases ways to tell which it is

Skylar

my friend's home is half garden half manmade space, but it is deliberately controlled by her mom

also, when I encounter something embarrassing I'm not sure if it's real or fake, more psychological than physical