Position Paper
Artificial Digitality
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I am Kuldeep Gohel, a final year Design and Technology (MFA) student from Parsons School of Design. I am doing my thesis that involves Machine Learning and Music. My thesis will conclude in March, 2018 and I am aiming to complete it with an album that is coauthored by a trained neural network and me. The compositions are not only music pieces that are generated by A.I. but are also a form of storytelling, describing the journey of our planet since the dawn of A.I. The research and study for my thesis will acknowledge me with the various forms and the possible fields where A.I. will be taking over human pieces and will allow me to speculate the future of our planet with more precision.

I have been a passionate self-learned musician for five years and have been constantly involved in making music since then. Apart from music, I have been reading and keeping myself updated with new forms of technology and emerging field like A.I. My love for machine learning and artificial intelligence got boosted since the time I came to Parsons, 2016. The various readings and constant exposures to new emerging technologies led me to fall for A.I. Apart from it, Machine Learning also seems to a great tool for me, as it can assist to get a unique concrete outcome for my music passion, the outcome that I have not been able to achieve till now because of time limitation and lack of creative feedback and collaborations.

Before coming to Parsons, I did my graduation in Exhibition Design from National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India. My undergraduate course taught me the art of story-telling through the deployments of space. In exhibitions and other public configurations, I learned how to immerse a user in the environment. I visited RMIT, Australia, in 2012 as an exchange student. At RMIT, I learned to create multisensory design spaces, widening my horizons as a designer and an artist. This experience increased my passion for making music, and applying it in many contexts. In 2015, as a part of my undergraduate thesis, I was invited to teach at HS OWL, Germany, where, with a few of my students, I did a multi-media show for Detmold Art Night. We illustrated how "Futurism" need not entail just technology, speed and violence but can be love, kindness and go hand in hand with nature. Building on these early experiences, I began querying more profoundly what it means to be an exhibit. Gaining inspiration from Marina Abramovic, I created work that presents endurance as art. During my residency at GlogauAIR, I encased myself in tape, immobile for 6 continuous hours, to make people question whether social media is truly connecting us or, rather, paralyzing us in ways that we have failed to notice.

The few mentioned experiences and my work around the world, has made me a person, who is always curious, and is trying to gain new insights about the future of our world. I keep connecting dots from various fields like science, arts, technology with humanity and world to form a better understanding about tomorrow. The main reason to investigate A.I. as part of my thesis is to really understand the subject of A.I. and speculate the future of it with us. The filed of A.I. is rapidly emerging and with technology being more and more accessible to everyone, it will definitely be creating new immense possibilities. But what will be its impact, its new form, new fields where it will take over us, are few of many questions that I need to get answers of while I am working on my thesis.