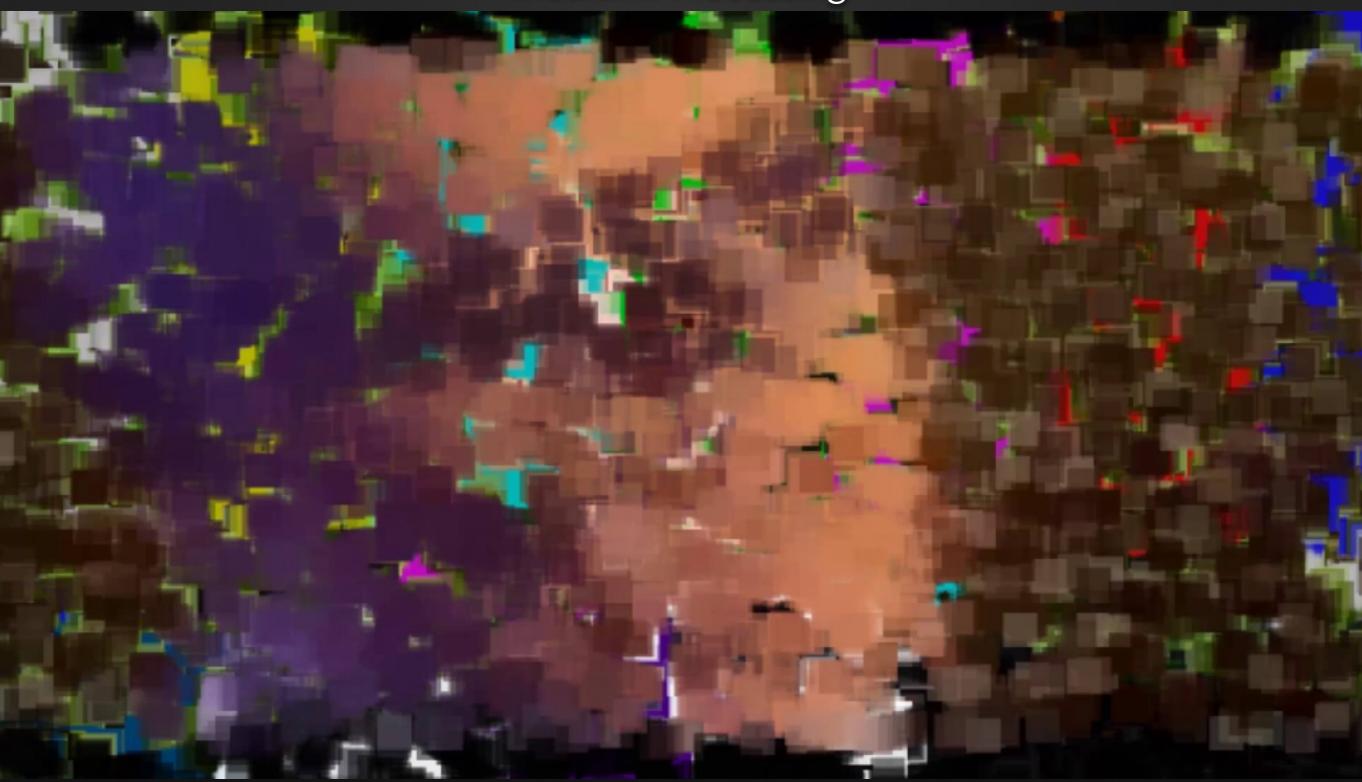VJ Tool, ongoing
medium: Processing

Documentation of live performance at Clockenflap, Hong Kong, 2016:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rif9iESZeVU

The Virtual Stabbing at the Fabric of the Real | The Real Stabbing at the Fabric of the Virtual

In her book, *Network Culture: Politics in the Information Age*, Tizana Terranova describes emergent and radical points of communal actions in terms of Claude Shannon's Information Theory. Terranova writes:

> Whether it is about the flash-like appearance and disappearance of the electronic commons (as in the early Internet), or the irruption in a given economic sector of a new technology able to unravel and disrupt its established organization of production (as in the current explosion of file-sharing systems), or whether it is about the virtuality of another world perceived during a mass demonstration or a workshop or a camp, the cultural politics of information involves a stab at the fabric of possibility, an undoing of the coincidence of the real with the given. (27)

In this characterization, the improbability (the virtuality) of the protest action challenges the stranglehold that the probable maintains over our accepted reality. Extending this idea into various understandings of 'the virtual' and 'the real,' "the virtual stabbing at the fabric of the real | the real stabbing at the fabric of the virtual" looks to our presentation of self in online space. By using imagery from both the radical and the mundane, and actually allowing these images to visually disrupt each other, the work attempts to blur distinctions between these realms and to challenge the perceived radical-ness of either. By revealing that these individuals are only 'exceptional' within the context of the unexpected event or action, the work seeks to become kind of protest on behalf of radical actors, one in which the shared experience should overshadow the exceptional.

Each image in this series is created using a self-authored program in the C programming language that exchanges binary image data between images. The images used in this series were appropriated from a single user's Instagram feed. The images were chosen for their depictions of either unprecedented events (Occupy Hong Kong, Berlin attack, Protests...) or their adherence to the socially generated aesthetic and thematic tropes of Instagram. Once glitches using the data-mashing software, the images are digitally layered to visually reinforce the disruption caused by the data exchange while also drawing attention back to the original image contents.

Size: 36" X 36"
Medium: Digital Print on metallic paper, mounted on acrylic

Minka Stoyanova
You Have Already Seen This Image

Installation View, *You Have Already Seen this Image*, February 2017