First Prototype: Distorted Realities in Surveillance

In our capstone project, we are delving into the themes of observation and manipulation, integrating elements of surveillance and media distortion. Our first prototype aims to lay the groundwork for the final exhibit design, combining technical aspects with the physical arrangement of the space. Drawing inspiration from The Weather Project, this prototype marks a significant step forward.

A key feature of our initial prototype is a webcam display that manipulates real-time video feeds through recursion effects and background removal, inspired by Cullerton's video delay techniques. This feature will provide a subtly unsettling background element, immersing visitors in a distorted experience from the moment they enter. Although we initially considered making this the central focus of the exhibit, our experiments suggest it may function more effectively as a supplementary element.

Alongside the video component, we developed a preliminary 3D model of the exhibition space. The layout is designed in an L-shape, beginning with a dimly lit entrance corridor equipped with sensors that will interact with visitors by capturing and altering their movements. The final presentation room, located at the end of the L-shaped path, is still under development. We are brainstorming its design and sensor technology to showcase the impact of visitors' interactions, emphasizing the theme of being observed. We have several ideas to explore over the weekend.

This prototype helps us understand the exhibit's flow and the visitor experience as they navigate through it. While details are still being refined, we hope this prototype will provide clarity and valuable feedback from our advisors and peers. Our goal is to achieve an 'it' factor where surveillance evolves from mere observation to active manipulation of the visitor's experience.

Included in this documentation are sketches, a 3D model of the exhibit, and a video demonstrating the distorted webcam playback. We look forward to how these initial concepts will evolve and bring us closer to our final vision.

Link to attachments:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAGP37N8pIc/q-OT6FX87KJTy4FgpB2aQA/edit?utm_content=DAGP37N8pIc&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton