

# Ugly Paintings, Pretty Eyes

*A modern adaptation with affective computing*

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**What is the effect  
of emotion in live  
performance?**

# Pretty Eyes, Ugly Paintings

*by Mario Vargas Llosa (1996)*

**Summary** (Fishburn 195)

**Set:** Lima, Peru

**Themes:** Art+Criticism, Death, Sexuality

**Sensory images:** Paintings, music, the city

**Characters:** Eduardo, Rubén, **Alicia**



Dir. Luis Alberto Rosas (Venezuela, 2007)



FOTOGRAFÍA: ALEJANDRA CORRALES

# Alicia's Appearances (Flashbacks)

1. Optimistic art student decides to become painter
2. Monologue on her anger and frustration after reading the critic's review
3. Last conversation between Rubén and Alicia, where she breaks up with him

Realization

The Idea

Dir. Juan Arce Saavedra (Mexico, 2017)



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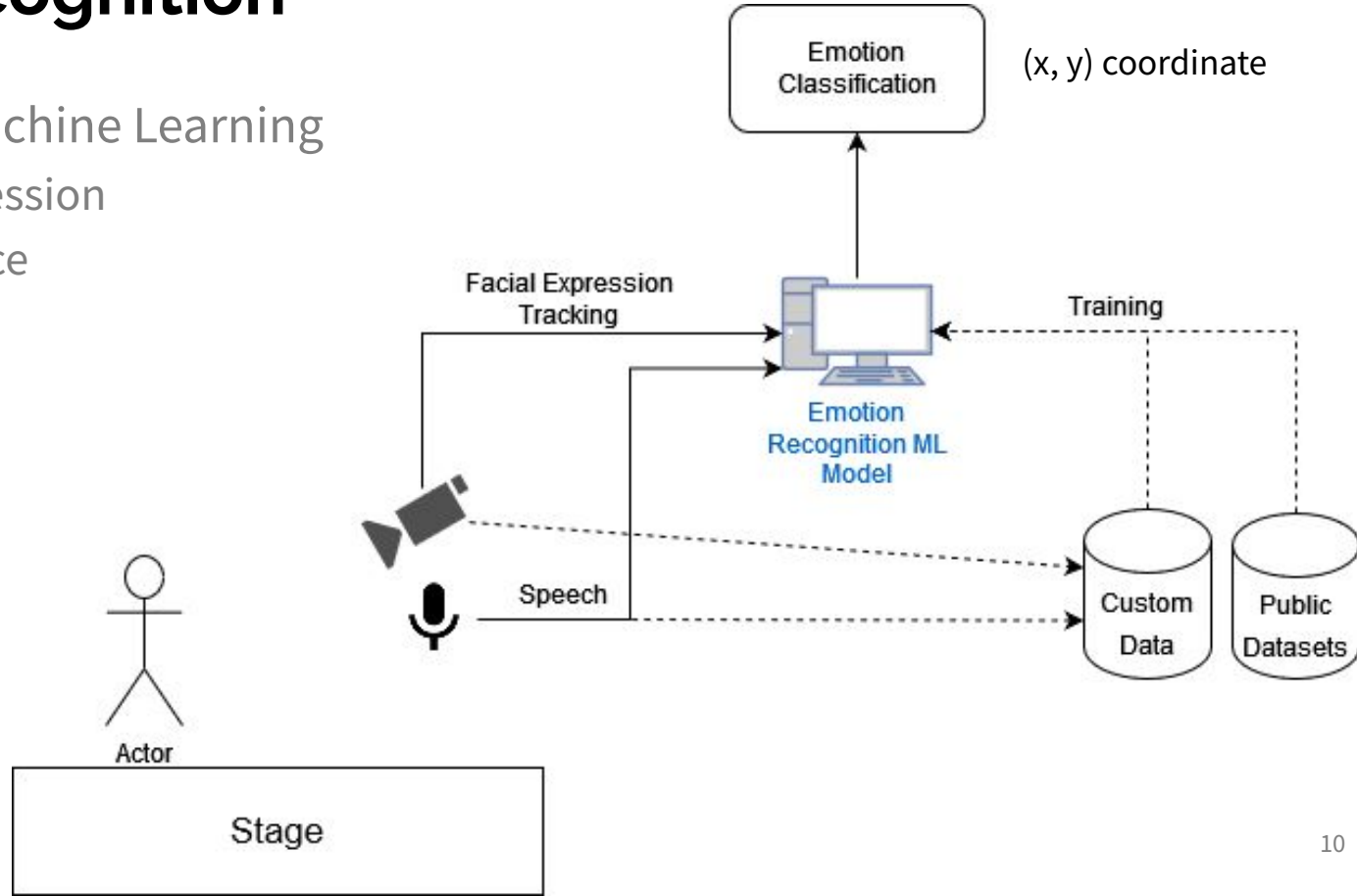


# “Augmented Acting”

- **Alicia controls ethereal scenography through the emotions embedded in her acting**
- Track what the acting represents
- Stanislavski
- **Benefit:** Extending the “Performative medium” (65 S. Dominicus)

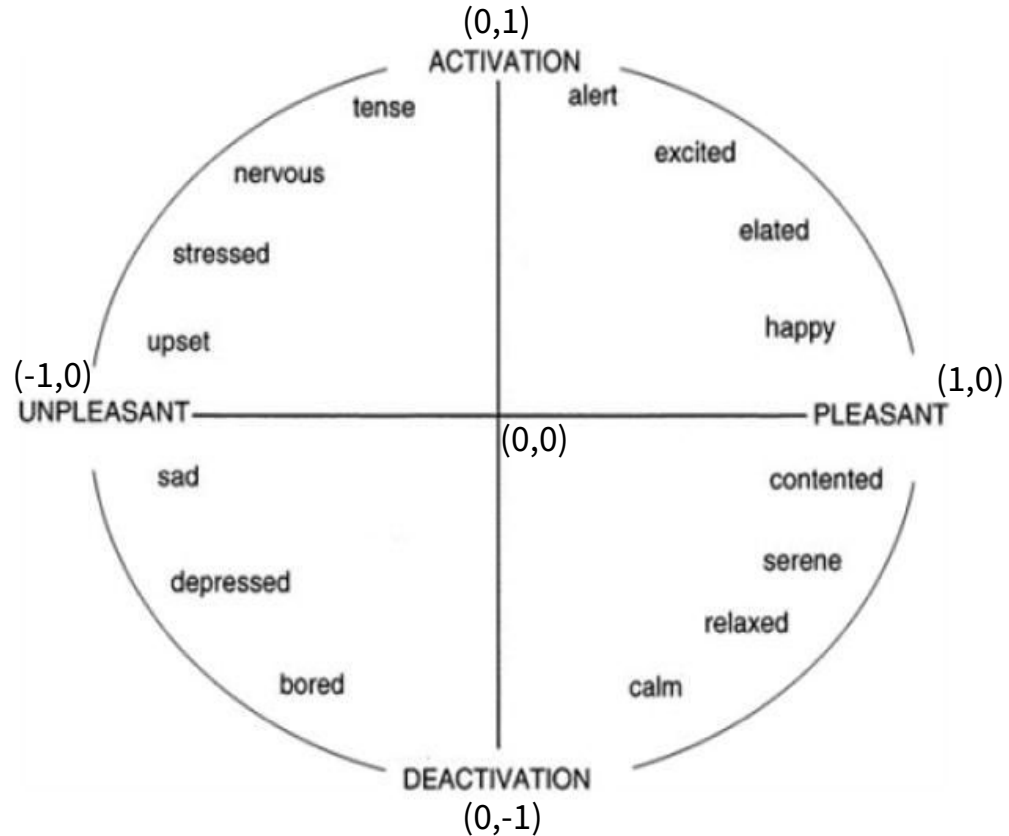
# Emotion Recognition

- Multimodal Machine Learning
  - Facial Expression
  - Tone of voice



# Emotion Model

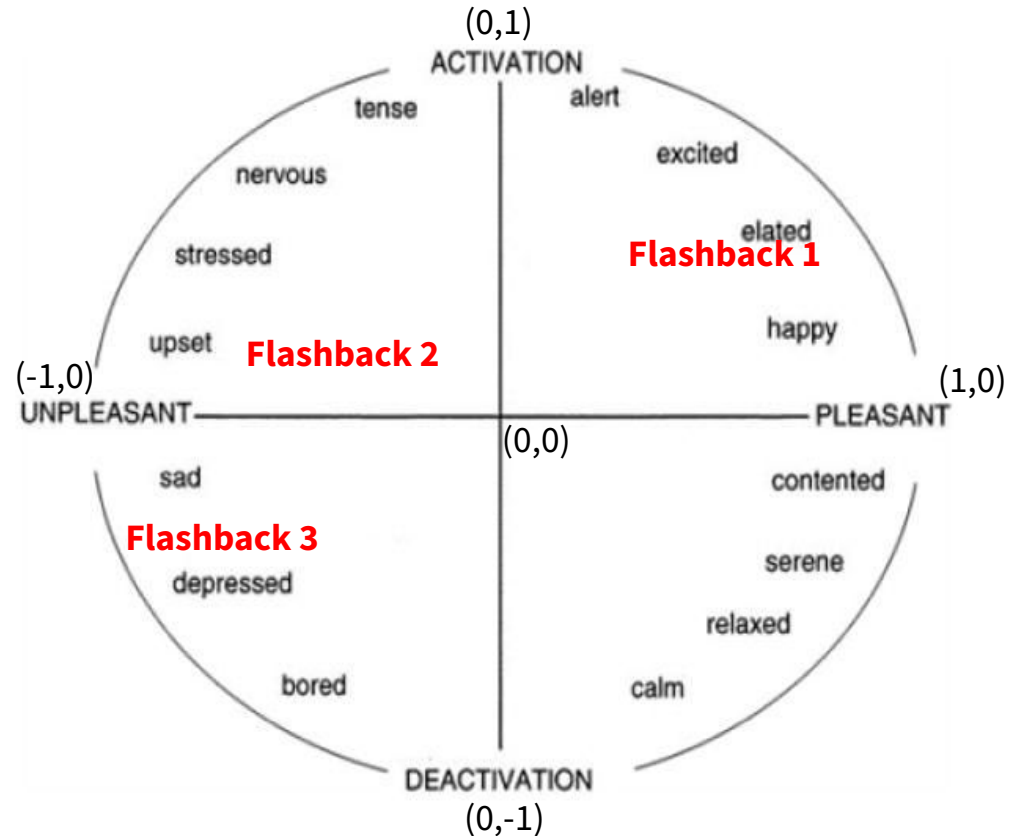
- 2 Dimensions
  - Activation (energy)
  - Pleasure
- Numerically representing emotions



Russell Circumplex Model

# Emotion Tracking

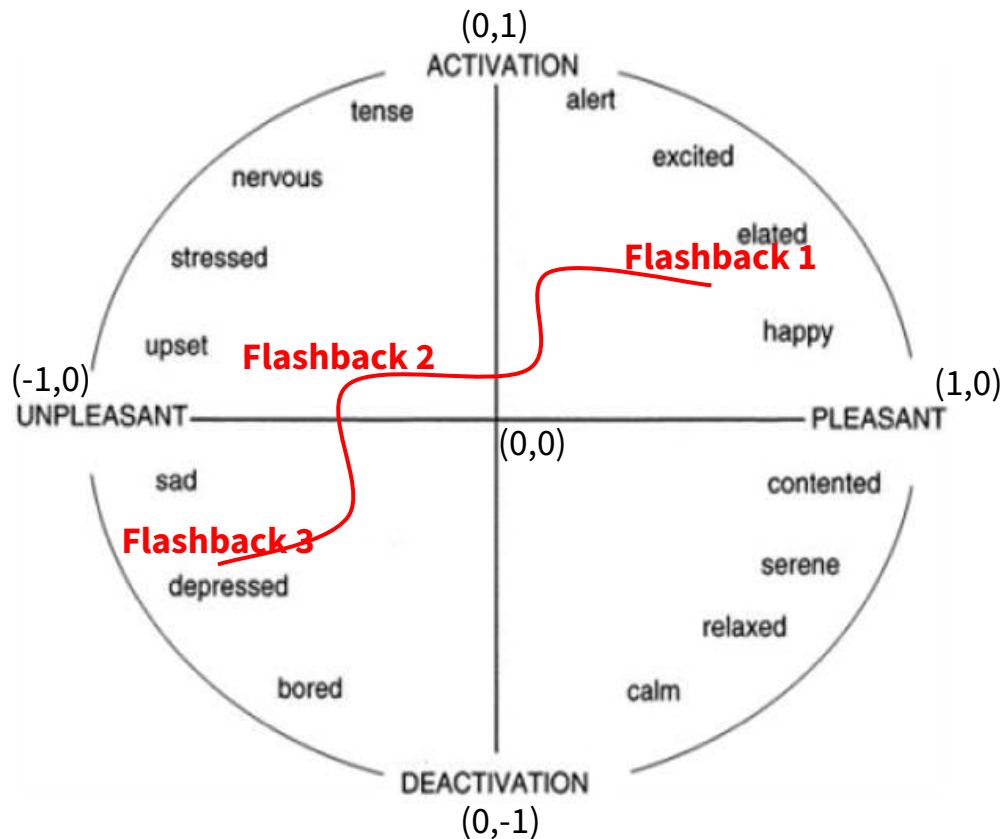
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Russell Circumplex Model

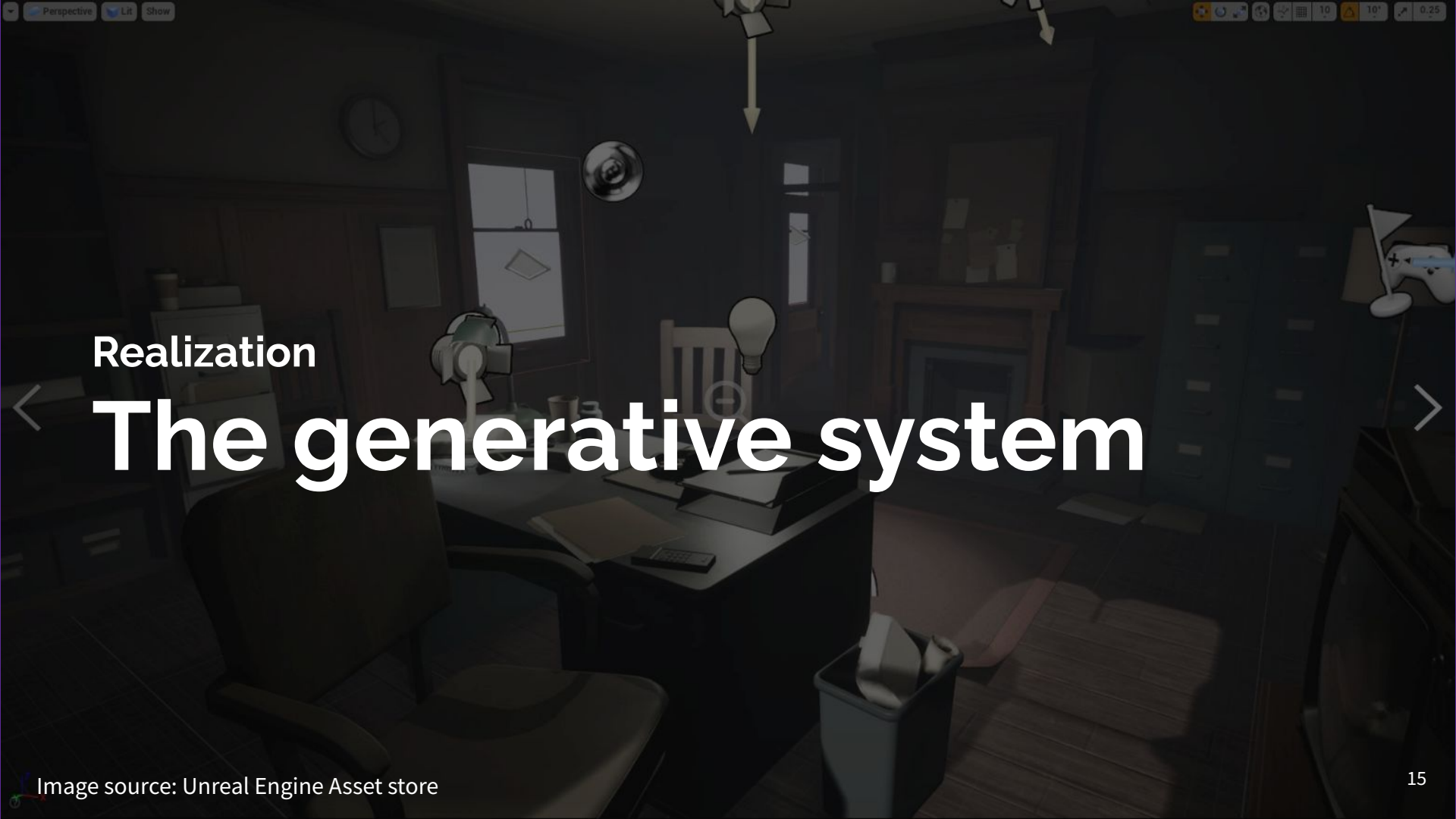
# Emotion Tracking

- 2 Dimensions
  - Activation (energy)
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Russell Circumplex Model





Realization

# The generative system

The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a window pane covered in condensation or a close-up of a rough material. It features a grid of small, light-colored squares, likely a window blind or a similar structure. Several bright, circular bokeh lights are visible, suggesting light sources outside the window. The overall tone is dark and moody.

**Lima through a window**  
*(1 dimension)*



# Synthetic rain

Heavy Rain ←————→ No Rain



$(-1,0)$

UNPLEASANT

$(0,0)$

$(1,0)$

PLEASANT

Image Sources:

<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/921465>

<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/971441>

<https://pxhere.com/en/photo/648001>



# Mondrian Paintings

*(2 dimensions)*

Image source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-art-of-piet-mondrian/>

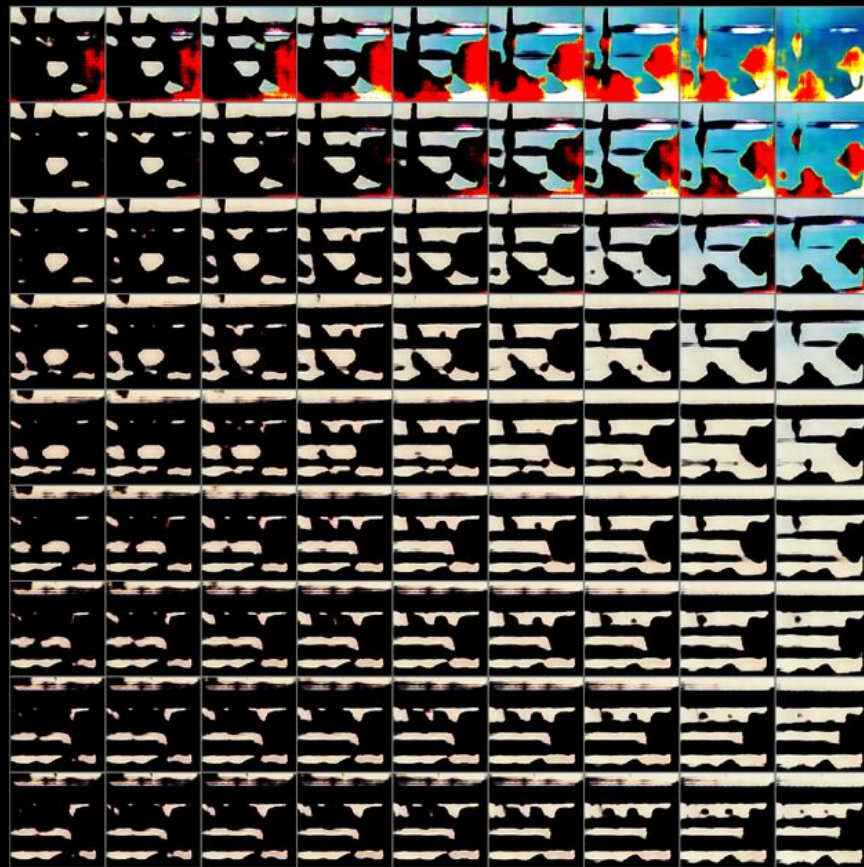
# Mondrian Latent Space

StyleGAN - Image Synthesis

Activation



Deactivation



Unpleasant

Pleasant

From: Gao, Kaihong. GSD J-Term Exploring AI and Neural Networks in Design. 2021.

<https://peitongchen.com/latent-space>



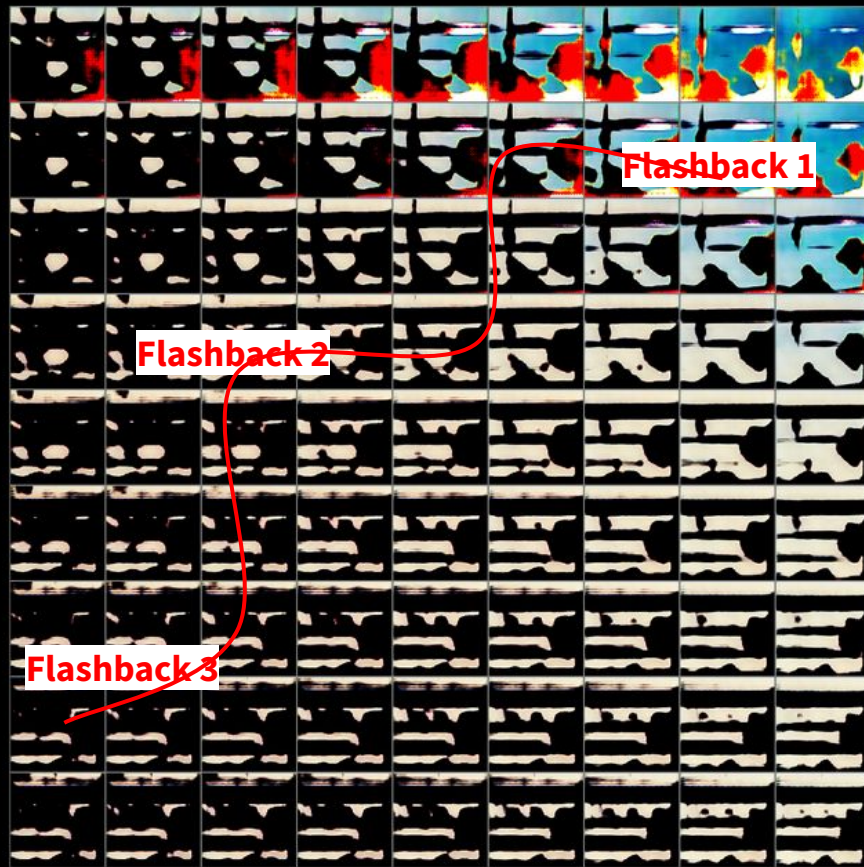
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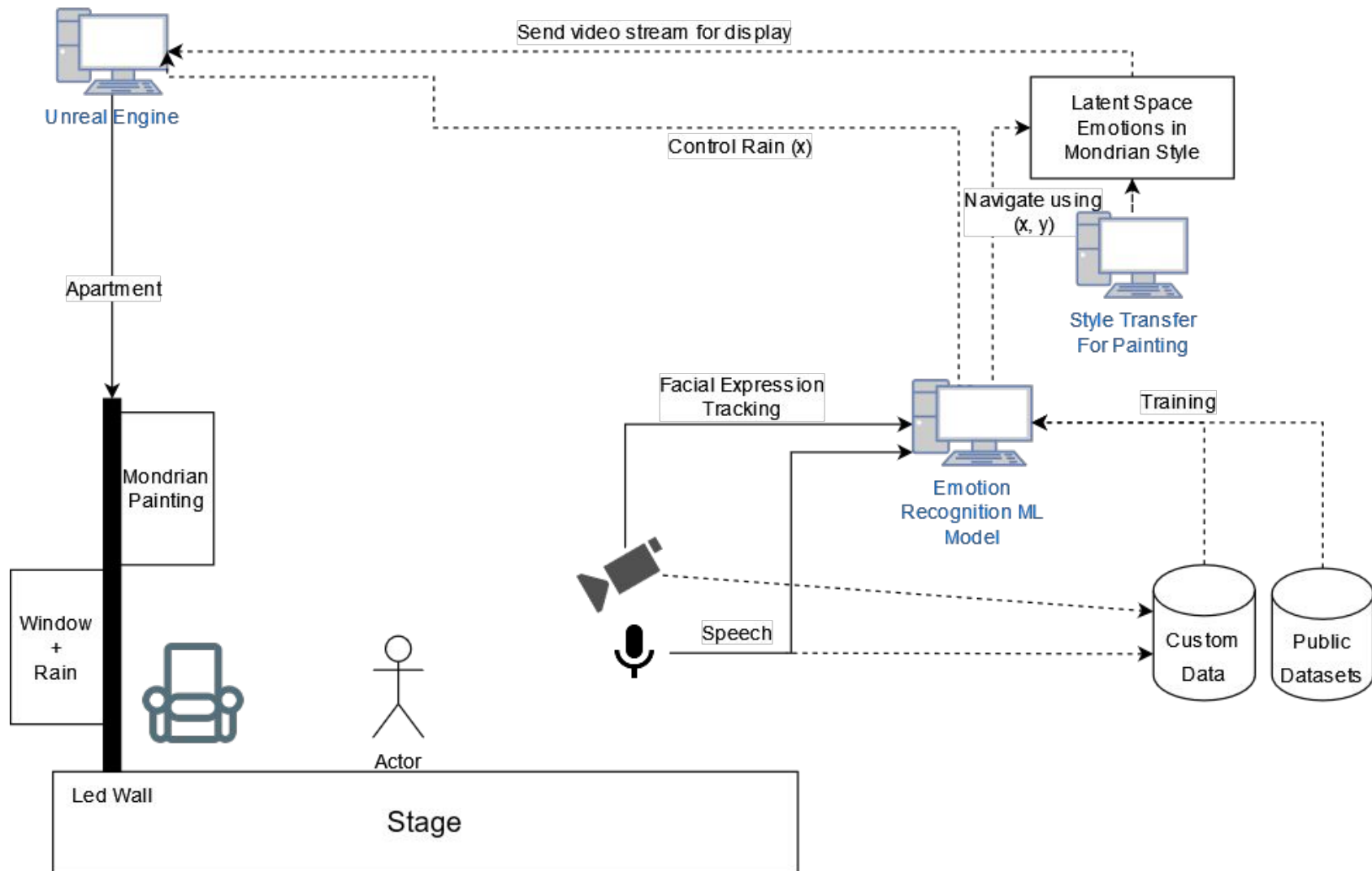


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# Next Steps

- “Minor Science” (Deleuze and Guattari)
  - Used by Seth Thorn in his development of an augmented violin
- Measures of Success
- Reflection and Impact
  - Feasibility and use of technology
  - Effects in performance
  - Audience’s impression

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