MORE THAN A CATEGORY

a human machine perception study

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collection of individuals' self-perception visualised through
machine learning

"Individuals come to "know" their own attitudes, emotions, and other internal states partially by inferring them from observations of their own overt behaviour and/or the circumstances in which this behaviour occurs.

Thus, to the extent that internal cues are weak, ambiguous, or uninterpretable, the individual is functionally in the same position as an outside observer, an observer who must necessarily rely upon those same external cues to infer the individual's inner state."

- Daryl J. Bem, 1987

In this day and age, neural systems and deep learning shape the premise of most applications we know as Artificial Intelligence. Such systems are trained on biased datasets and able, among other things, to perceive, identify and verify human faces in images and videos. Still, they can not understand who we really are as a person. But do we know who we are?

Our own self-perception is constantly changing and we may not even recognise ourselves in yesterday's self. "*more than a category*" explores in a participative approach the possibilities of a text-to-image neural network, as a tool to visualise and improve one's daily self-perception.

All Images are created with the open source machine learning programm Aleph2Image, made available by Ryan Murdock (Twitter: @advadnoun). Alep2Image is a combination of two neural network models by OpenAI, DALL· E (decoder, encoder) and CLIP and generates images from text input (max. 60 words). Here the input as well the output is based on human perception and therefore subjective.

HOW DO YOU CATEGORISE YOURSELF?

a collection of nine individuals' self-perception

How do you perceive yourself?
What would you say if a stranger asks for your personal categorisation?

"My name is Didier. I am not a very visually oriented person. I am a sound engineer. I am a male Western European, middle-aged. I originally studied political science and philosophy in Zurich."

"I am Leila, a young white woman studying International Relations. What interests me is sustainability and ecological awareness, how I organise my everyday life, what clothes I have and that this does not have a particularly big impact on the environment."

"I am Mateo, and I am a French-Swiss in German-speaking Switzerland. Maybe even someone who fled from the Romandy. I am a musician, a music student. I see myself as a human being."

"I am an open, curious and fun person. I like to create things or grow a plant. A little Gearloose. I like to play squash or go jogging. I like to get together with my family and love to eat. I feel like an integrated person in this world."

"I am David, and I am Portuguese, 45 years old. I am married and have one son called Tomas. I work as a barman at the Parterre AG group. I love cooking for my family. In winter I like to watch TV, and in summer I go for walks by the river. "
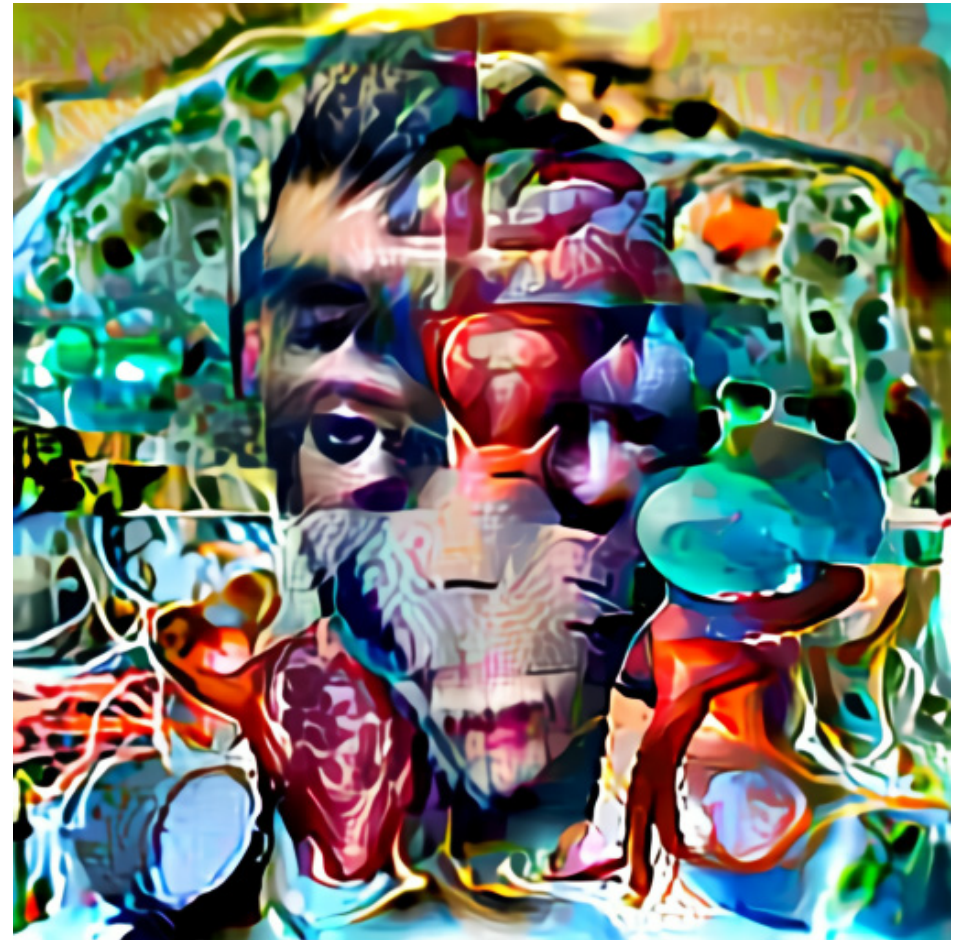
"I am a multicellular living being. A vertebrate. A mammal. A placenta animal, to be more precise. Probably a primate with cognitive abilities and hopefully free will. I like to prepare food and eat for myself because it gives me meaning and control over my life.
I like to make music."

"My name is Irene. I am from Cuba and concerning my categorization, I don't know. I would say, most likely I am a normal worker. I consider being quite a basic person. And I am an artist. I like to paint a lot and like the art part of the world. But otherwise, I am a basic person."

"I am a creative person. I love everything with theatre and cinema. I like to spend time in the theatre and watch how people act. It gives me new emotions. I am from Ukraine, but my family originates from Russia. I like to paint and play the Piano, Ukulele and love to sing."

"I am Thy a confident, open minded, self-assured young Asian woman
with a tomboy style and a positive aura. I like to wander mentally
and physically to explore the world, people and things. I came from
Vietnam to Switzerland and questioning what impact my roots have
on my present and future me in the western world."

WHO ARE YOU,
TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOU?

a collection of twenty-one individuals' self-perception

How do you perceive yourself?
What would you answer, if asked to tell something about yourself, anonymously in a survey?
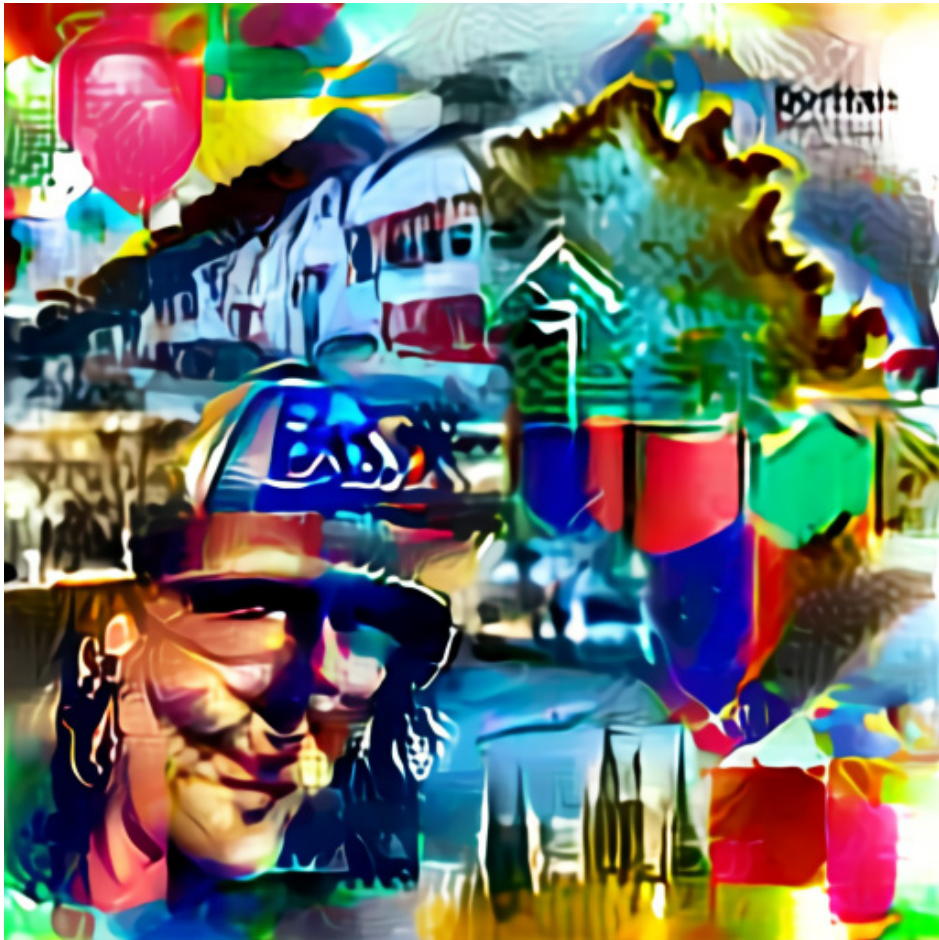
*"Graduated masters in physics 2009
Got into art
Doing art now"*

"French person, grew up in a farm in the countryside, my background is arts & sciences, my generation is the one that remembers when we did not have a cellphone :)"

"I grew up in Bottmingen, a small suburb just outside Basel in a very conservative but happy environment. Born in 1968 a teenager of the 80's with all its great music. expatriate early 90's."
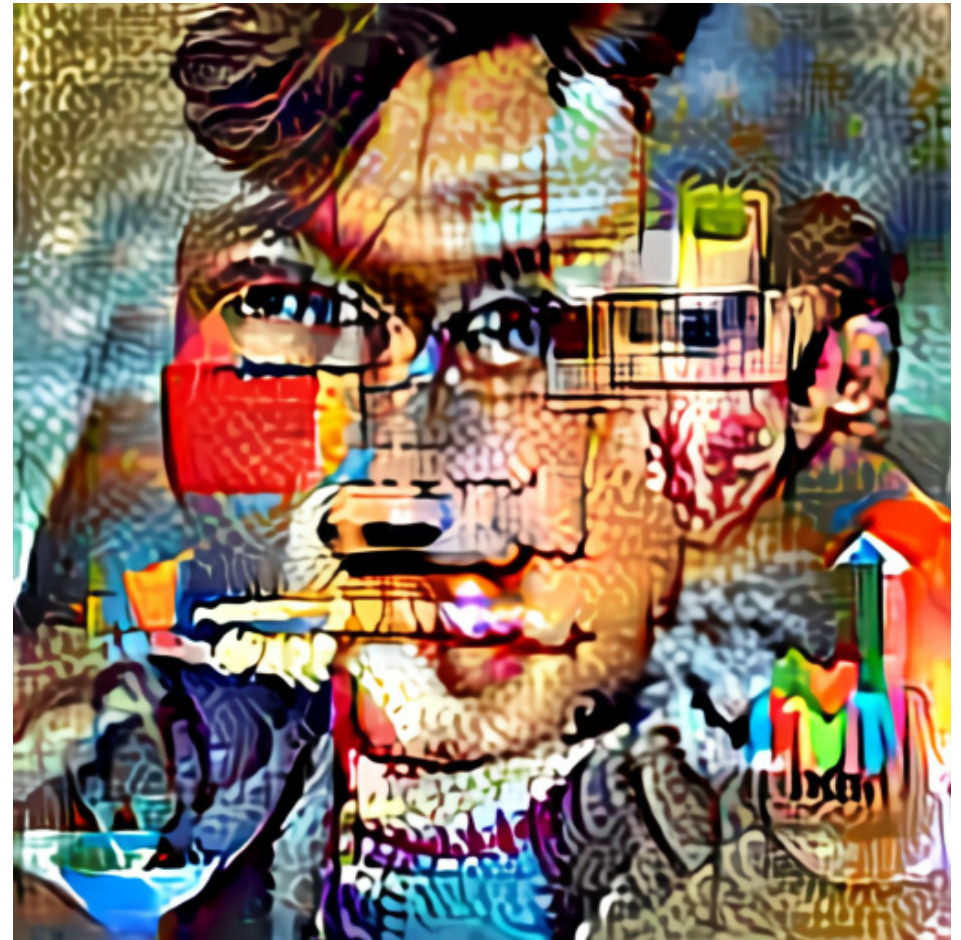

"I was born and raised in Taiwan for 25 years then I moved to NYC. After living New York for five years, the culture shock has been the biggest impact for me, specially in my career path. It also became a motivation for me to chasing my goals."
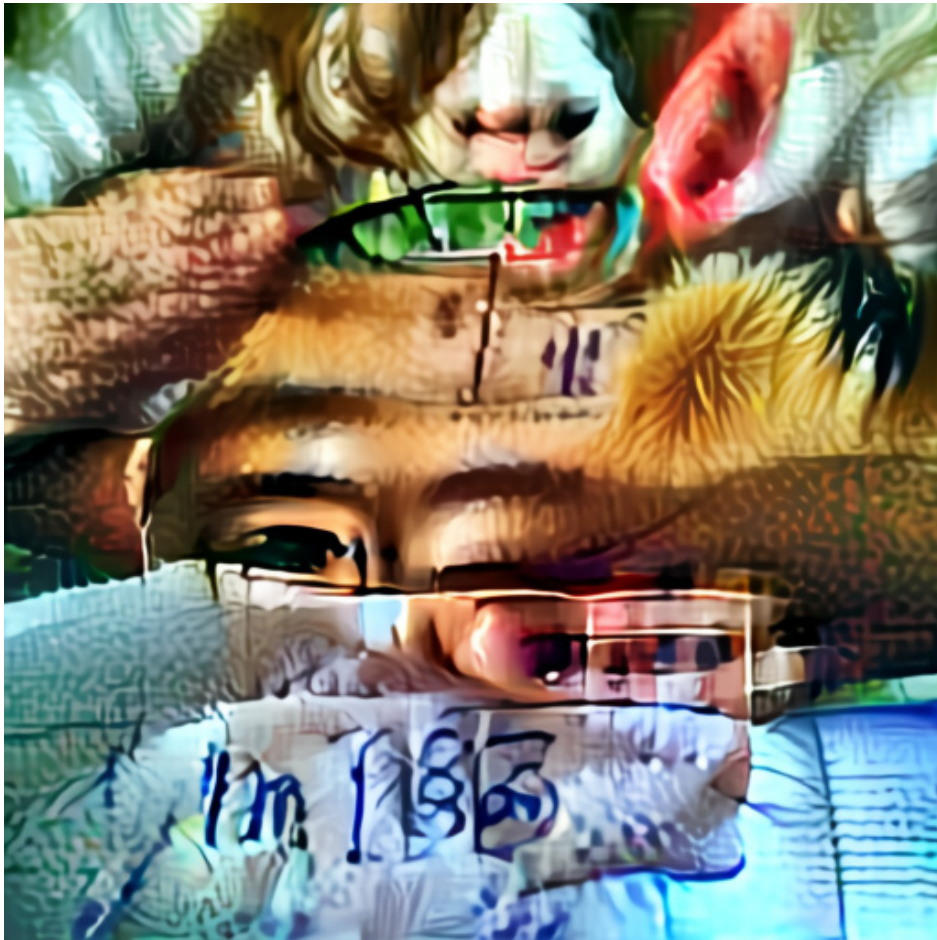
"Switzerland
Fitness and health
Video games
How people function and behave"

"Born 1991(Millenial) - born in Zurich, grew up in Zurich, Basel and Baden in an (upper) middle class family. Influencing me: Movies, TV series, games, books, Reddit, Youtube, Instagram, friends, family"

*"I was born in 1996, work at a bank and study economics.
My parents are wealthy and I grew up in the countryside."*

*"I am W. 26 years old outgoing, a family person and grew up in a
small village. I work at a regional bank in a leader position. I have been
influenced mainly by the people around me, but also by social media. "*

"I grew up in rural Switzerland. I belong to the whY generation. I am culturally interested and also influenced."

"Grew up in the Swiss Agglo. Daughter of an entrepreneur in the IT sector and a yoga teacher. Generation Y."

"Gastronome hotelier and host with a passion for the service industry very affine when it comes to customer service."
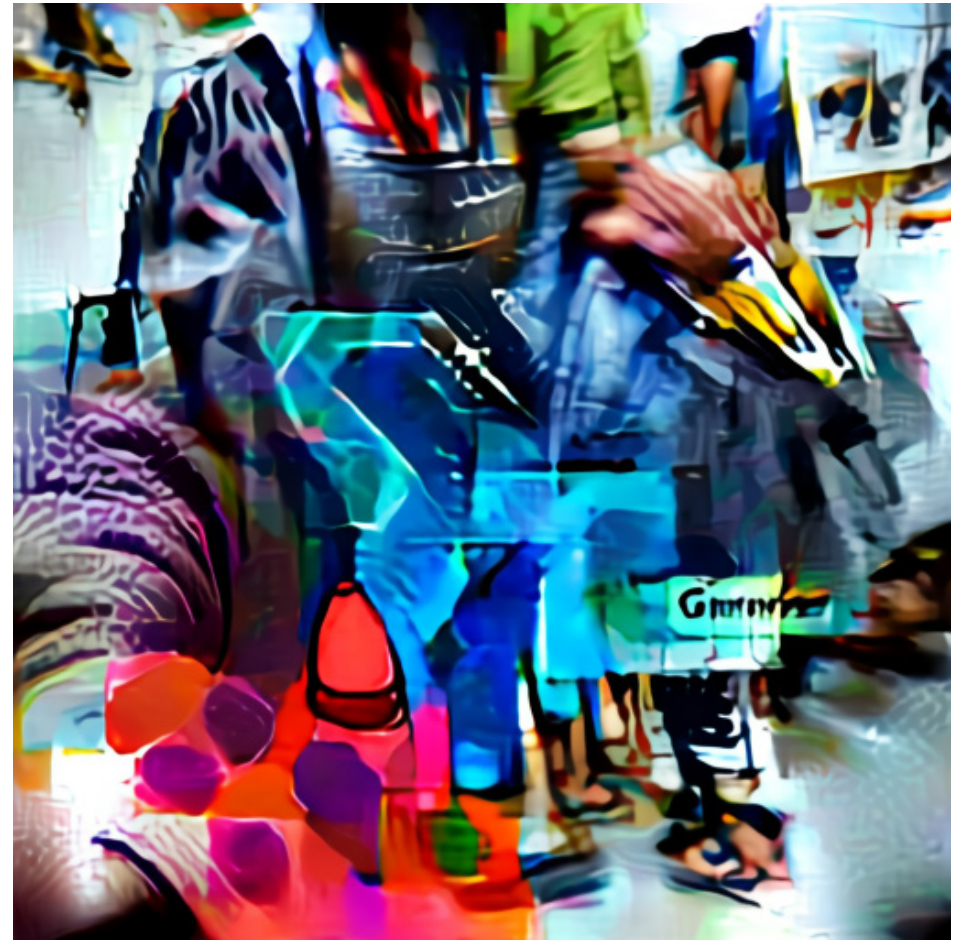

"Basel, over 60, academic"

"I love the country life, I am creative, I write books, I work in the counselling therapeutic and social field and I believe in the good in people. We are God's children"

"I think I am an unexplored person. I learned to be a stromer, a fashion designer, an art handler and now a student. Generation Y. The future fascinates me."
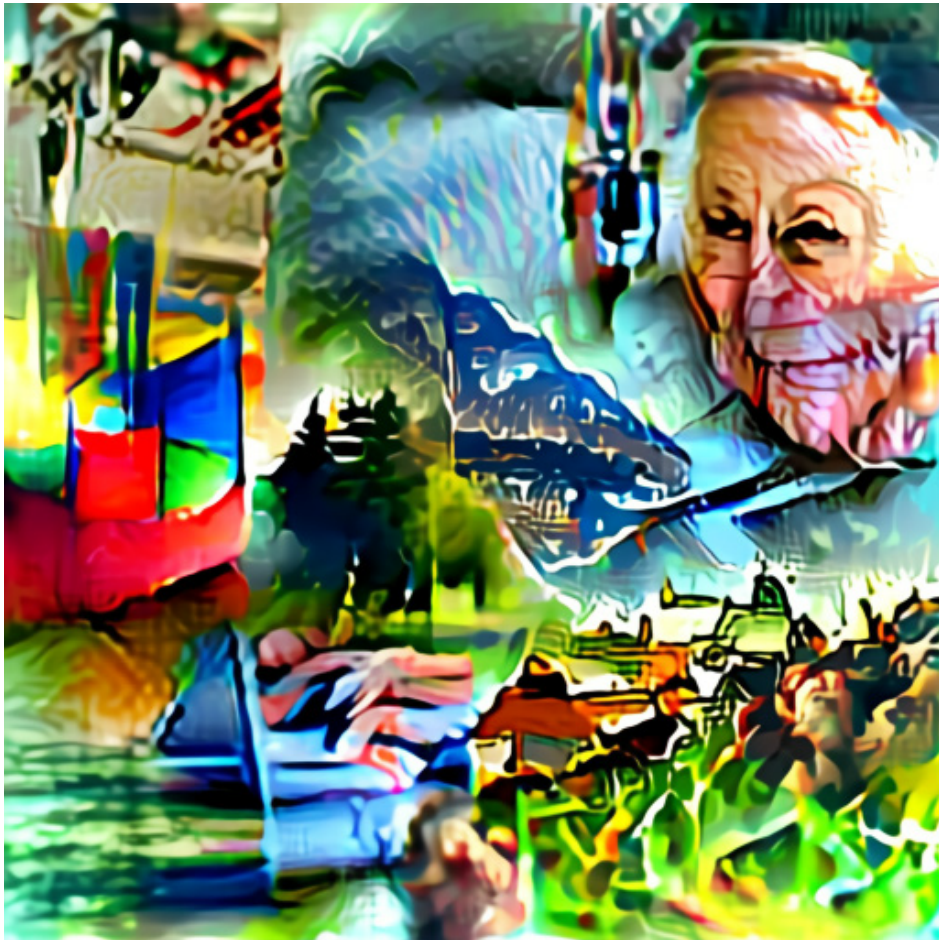
"I grew up in a very narrow village, but now live in the city. I study and work part-time. I was very influenced by my childhood. I am inspired by nature."
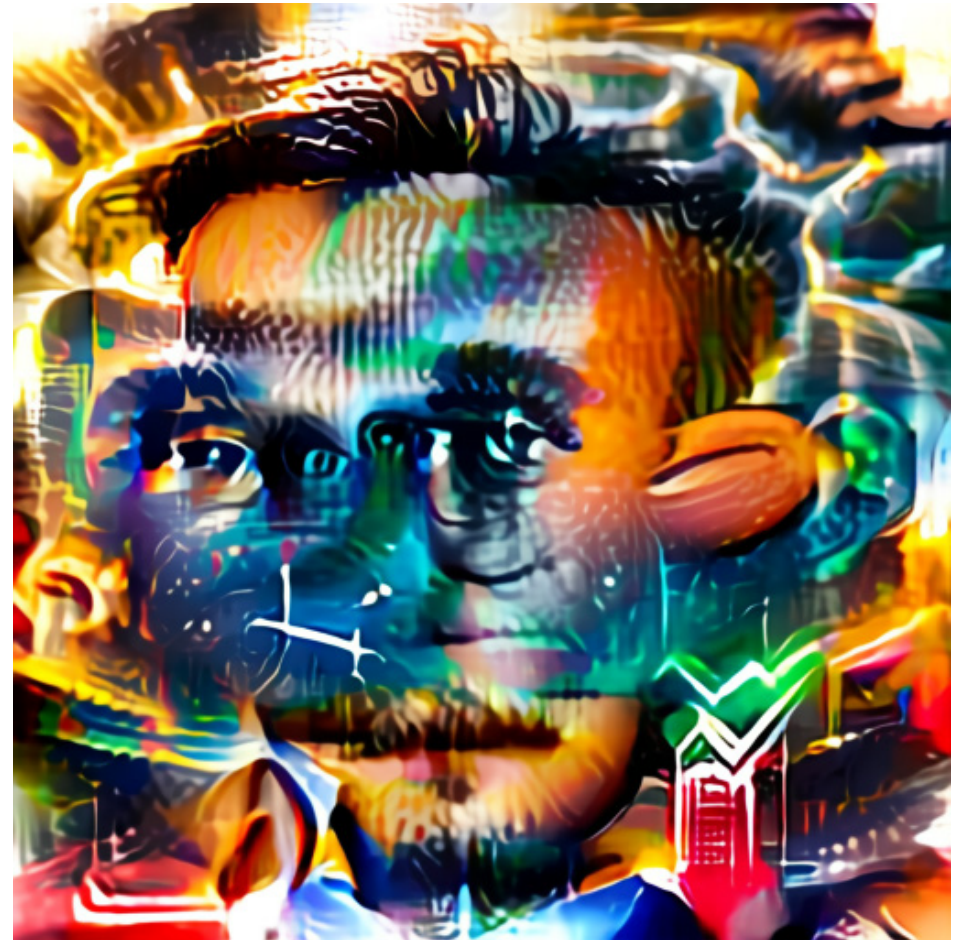

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"I grew up in Basel, 21 years old and trained as a banker. I'm mainly influenced by people with a lot of intelligence who have made the world a better place. I'm inspired by Nikola Tesla, Elon Musk, Gary Vaynerchuck and Albert Einstein."
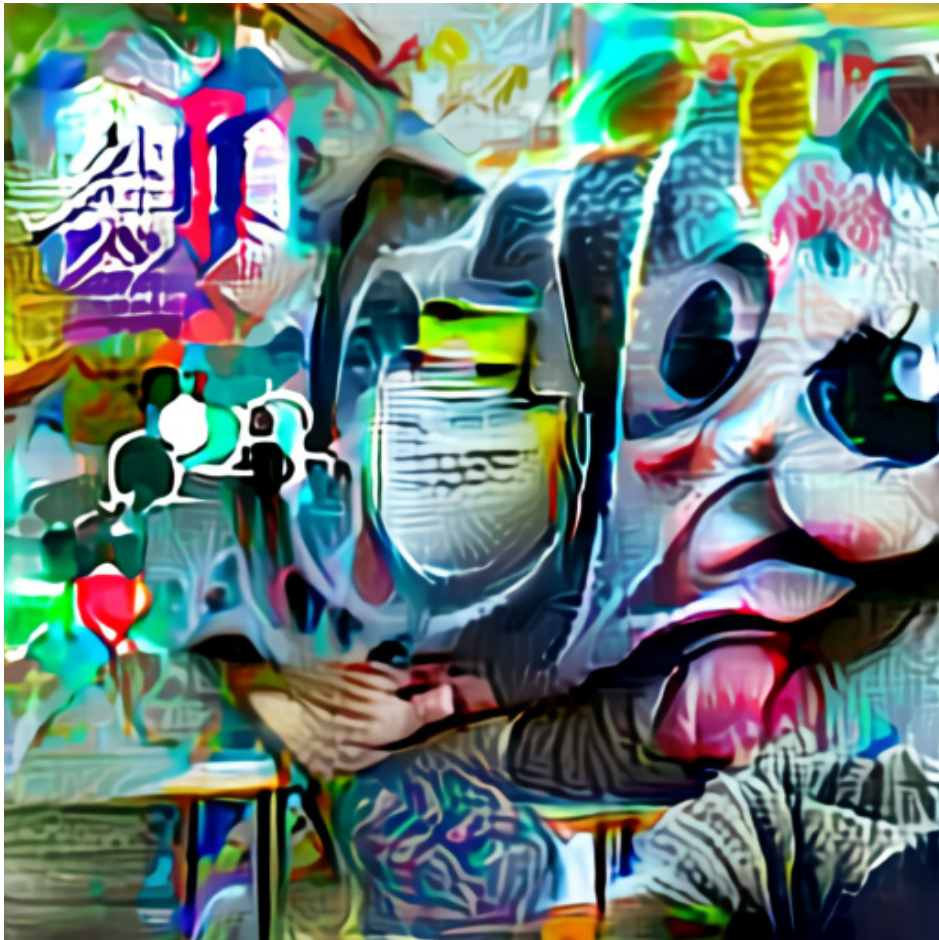
"I (W) was born in the canton of BL (1998) and grew up there. I love fashion, trends and want to start a blog someday (something that inspires me)."

"I, 22, student at zhdk.
grew up in switzerland I'm interested in many things and few things, sometimes firmly and sometimes not so firmly.
(wow I think that's everything)."

"I'm 30 years old, I'm studying Interaction Design. I have a background in IT, in cultural engagement in open cultural houses and in the subversive world of graffiti."

WHO ARE YOU TODAY?

a collection of three individuals' daily self-perception while
self-focusing over three and five days

How do you perceive yourself today?
One's self-perception is constantly changing through various
happenings and can lead to self-discrepancy. If we increase self-focus
attention, we can raise awareness of our discrepancy.

Who are you today? What did you do today? What do you see in
yourself today? What did you like or dislike today?

While self-reflecting, we function like others as observers, trying to
examine ourselves based on our obvious behaviours. Through this,
we can increase awareness of our discrepancy, which can lead to an
improvement of one's self-perception, and further on as well in the
perception of others.

individual 1

"Today I am a silent friend who would like to be louder. But I can't do it, because I am heavy: the world makes me heavy. My potential is dampened by a vast abundance of lack of direction. The non-existent direction defines me. It is my excuse and approval at the same time. It annoys me. I like that."

"Today I am the mirror of others. I ask questions and seek progress, because positioning is the definition of myself. What robs me of energy I make up for with absence, if I manage to withdraw for a moment."

"Today I am a wanderer. Like a butterfly, I let myself drift, for I am restless. When something annoys me, I move on until I almost reach contentment. I find myself with random friends but also sitting alone by the Rhine. This process repeats itself until I fall tired into bed."
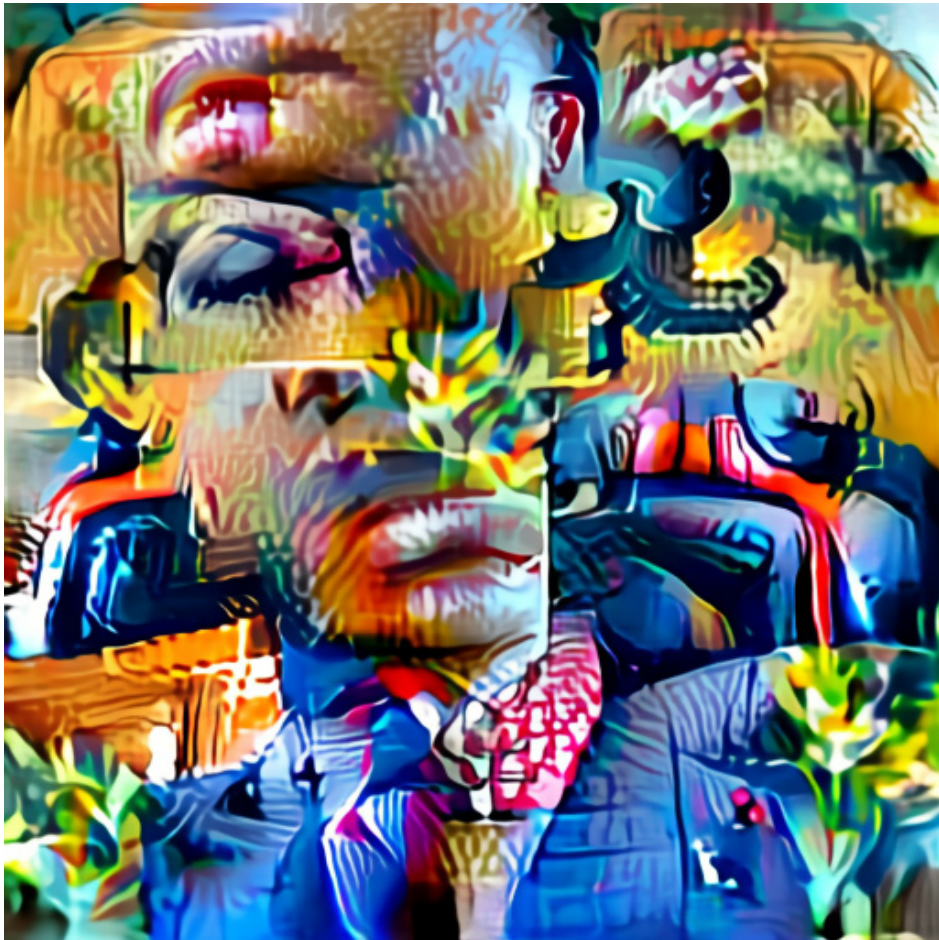
"Today I am an executive machine. I do what I am told to do. Sometimes I try to break out of this pattern, which I sometimes succeed in doing. Sometimes I rest in this position, free of any responsibility. A curse and a blessing at the same time."

"Today I am a patient listener in the shadow of others. Learning process and boredom mix into a colour unknown to me. And then, quite unexpectedly, I become louder in quiet moments. That feels strange and good."

individual 2

*"Male consumerist living in the city who makes provisions for later.
I like to watch birds and get annoyed by cigarette butts that pollute
the Rhine."*

"Office rubber with technical skills who is looking forward to the weekend. I was able to organise something in a short time and my lunch was a highlight."

"Today I am a year older than yesterday. I'm becoming a more and more independent office goon and family man because of birthday celebrations with family. My red jacket defined me today. My workmates in the office sang cringy happy birthday and gave me a pocket knife. I already knew that because I had to send it to others as well."

individual 3

"Today I was moody but in control. Despite my lack of motivation, I pulled myself together and worked. I am grateful for my friends. I feel a bit corny and childish, but I am trying to make peace with these qualities of mine. I didn't feel very beautiful today, but that wasn't very important. A mixed day."

"Today I felt like a stone. I just wanted to stay in bed and do nothing. I allowed myself to get lost in my emotions for a while, what I appreciate. After that I stayed in bed but was a productive writter. But I think I was a bad friend today, for that I feel sorry."

"Today I only did heart-projects. Cultural activities, spending time with friends and eating good food. But I did not treat my body very well. I got a headacke from the sun and backhurt from lifting to heavy. I feel me-oriented and unproductive."
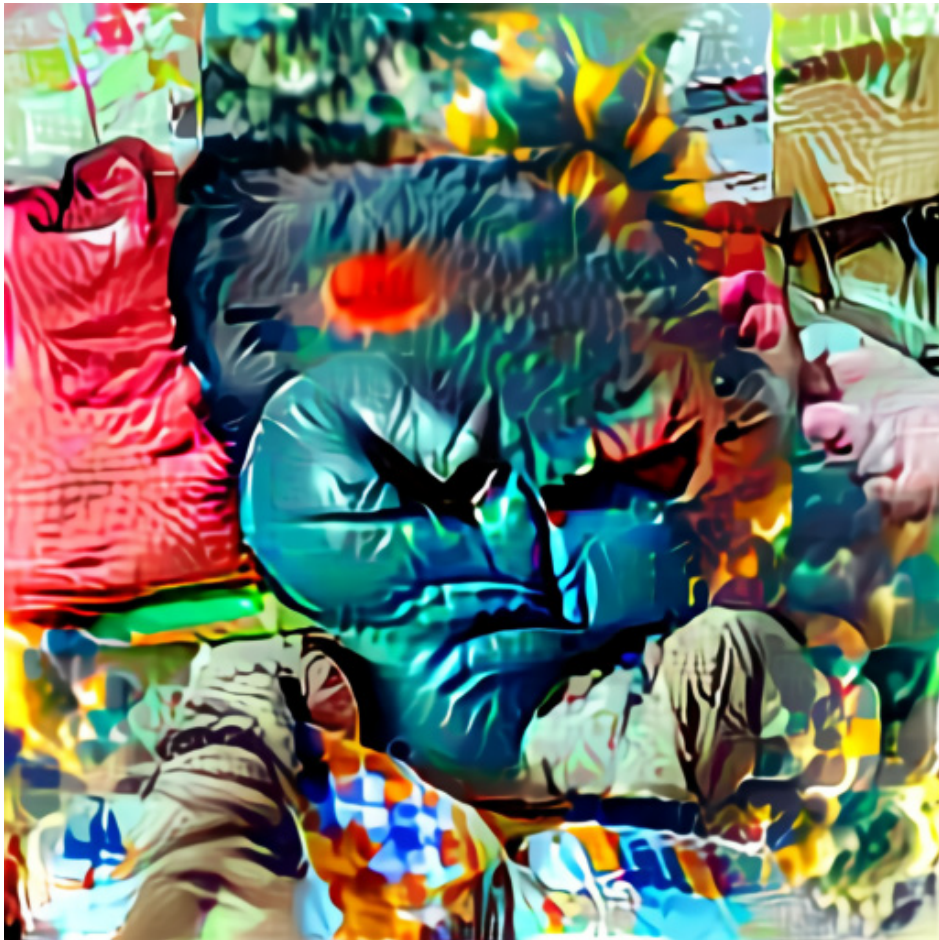
"Today I had a great time. Enjoing the simple things of life like sleep, company and sun. In the evening my mood switched to angry. Angriness at nothing concrete but an accumulation of things. And especially angry at myself that I am angry for no reason."

"Today I was reflecting a lot I was able to step outside myself and evaluate my situation from this external perspective. This led to a more distinguished and unemotional conclusion. I was a good friend cause I could take the time to help and meet people."

how do you perceive yourself today?