

# Group 3- Hito Steyerl

## *In Defense of Poor Image*

Thalia Thomas

I'm going to respond to all three of Group three's discussion questions; starting with whether or not poor image would stop me from consuming media. My answer to this is no simply because I don't care that much about the quality as long as I'm able to understand what is going on. This leads to my response to the next question which is, what I consider to be more important; the quality, the accessibility, or the affordability. In order of importance, affordability comes first, next is accessibility, and quality is last. This order remains the same for movies and television shows or anything I can watch. However when it comes to streaming music, podcasts, or anything that doesn't have an image tied to it, my order of importance changes; quality is first, accessibility is second, and affordability is last. What would be the point of listening to music that is of poor quality? You could ask the same question about an image but I think sometimes poor quality image gives a better sense of realness. I once watched a movie on Netflix that was shot completely on an iPhone and edited through iMovie and I don't think it would've had the same impact if they had a full production crew. In group three's presentation they presented the argument that low resolution image is equivalent to it being of lesser value. How can you justify spending more time and resources to view an image in higher resolution? I believe all this is just a matter of perspective and

preference. I'm sure if you can afford a 4k television and/or immersive surround sound system and you care about the quality of what you are receiving then you wouldn't choose the cheaper lower quality setup. However someone like myself would choose the cheaper setup because if I wanted a more immersive experience I would go to a theatre or somewhere worth paying, ONCE, for the experience. That's not something I need on a consistent basis; I don't think anyone needs that all the time. In more recent times I feel like low quality is becoming a trend in all aspects. From DIY production, to clothing that looks way less expensive than it actually is, even things as small as memes that are made up of low quality photos or text have become very popular amongst this generation. I don't think there is any real way to justify any of it.