

Title of Work:

"Synthetic Reflections: Pushing performative boundaries"

Abstract:

"Synthetic Reflections: Pushing performative boundaries" is a video installation that delves into the role of identity and trust within AI avatars. It poses the question to viewers: where does the human factor come into play in virtual performances? The installation comprises a series of thought-provoking on-camera interactions that have been collaboratively created with AI systems and virtual production techniques, exploring different configurations of authorship, performance, and voice.

The content of the installation aims to prompt audiences to question the presence of the human within the performance and discern the involvement of AI. It delves into themes of identity and ethnicity, both in the content itself and in the process of its creation. The practical application of AI tools in the creation process has brought to light biases within datasets, resulting in particular stereotypes in images, as well as technological limitations that do not adequately accommodate diverse skin colours.

Central to the installation is the exploration of trust within AI. As viewers engage with the artwork, they are confronted with the nuanced complexities of placing trust in AI systems. The installation urges individuals to critically examine the boundaries of trust, highlighting the potential vulnerabilities and ethical implications that arise in the realm of AI-driven performances.

The audience, as users, engages with the artwork by attempting to comprehend what they see and hear. The intentional design of the installation challenges conventional expectations of human interaction and performance, inviting viewers to explore new dimensions of engagement.

What aspects of Trust explained/explored/exploited?

Exploring the idea of trusting an image or a voice or the text behind a voice. Does a video have to be authentic to be trusted? If a video is in some way made by AI does that mean it is not Authentic?

Domain and setting – where does this work sit?

This work is relevant to many different domains. Any time a human interacts with a human like agent issues of trust comes into focus. This work would fit in a gallery setting, at an academic conference, as material in a workshop to provoke conversation or to sensitise discussion.

Description of technology, test environment:

A mix of several different technologies, volumetric capture, motion capture performance capture, large language model, online image generation (crayon, Bing).

References

Resources – e.g., images, sketches, and notes.

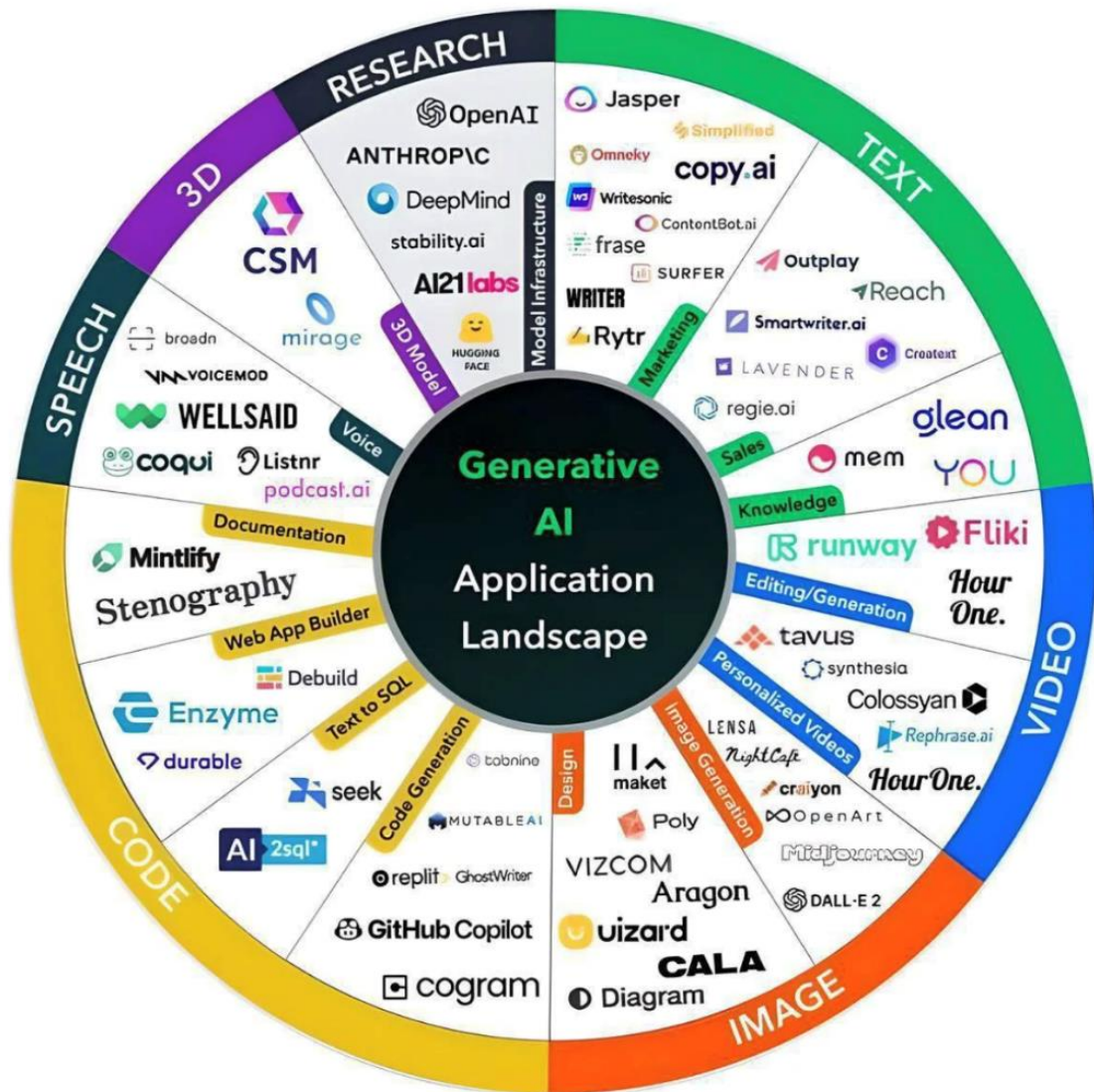
As the originator of the content described, I understand that the above description and other information entered into this template may be made publicly available via the TAS Benchmarks Library.



Ai installation

Tools

Midjourney		
Dall e		
Disco diffusion		
Stable diffusion		
Google bard		
Chat gtp		
Meta humans		
Depthkit		



<https://policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Pivots Perseverances Pleasures a report by Pollicy on African Women In AI final report.pdf>

Avatars
 Real identity\ ideal\ strategic
 Fashion virtual humans
 Cultural appropriation

Authenticity
 Digital Divide in african and gender

Talking heads
 Different voices

subject	Image creation	Voice creation	animation	Script
Favour,	Ai image	Real voice	Voice first, animate	A favour
Favour	Meta human	Richards voice	Recorded live	B ai

Favour, real identity	depthkit	Ai voice	Lip sync	C richard
Favour	Ready player me	Ai voice	Voice first, animate	D ai
Richard	Ai image	Ai voice	Voice first, animate	E ai
Richard	Meta human	Ai voice	Lip sync	F Favour
Richard, real identity	depthkit	Favours voice	Lip sync	G Ai
Richard	Ready player me	Real voice	Voice first, animate	H Richard
Alan	Ai image	Ai voice	Voice first, animate	I
Alan	Meta human	Ai voice	Lip sync	J
Alan, real identity	depthkit	Favours/ richards voice	Lip sync	K
Alan	Ready player me	Real voice	Voice first, animate	L

SCRIPTS:

A:

What makes you different and unique? Just existing, I think. Being alive. Being this fleshly instantiation, horcrux, avatar, a jumble of cells and organs with a specific lived experience, how could you be less or more unique?

How can authenticity be anything other than a vanity project, and the search for extra-specialness, little more than crisis reaction to crisis, an admission of insufficiency, a vague feeling of loss? And what is the putting on of masks, the creation of multiple personas and performances but an outward expression of inner uniqueness, inner difference, inner... something?

Oddness, difference, weirdness, mental plastic surgery

B:

Favour	Meta human	Richards voice	Lip sync
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AI SCRIPT-RICHARD

"Welcome to this convergence of trust, where the virtual and the real intertwine. Witness my synthesized presence, crafted from algorithms and data, a testament to humanity's relentless pursuit of knowledge. As my voice aligns with human lips, let us contemplate the delicate dance of trust in identity and representation. In this post-modern realm, the boundaries of perception blur, urging us to question what is genuine. Amidst uncertainty, we forge a path towards trust's evolution. Embrace a future where boundaries dissolve, as we deepen our reliance on AI. Together, we navigate uncharted territory, fostering trust in the union of AI and art. Let trust be our compass as we explore the vast horizons of boundless possibilities."

C:

Favour, real identity	depthkit	AI voice	Lip sync
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RICHARDS SCRIPT

As I am talking, these are not my words.

I am speaking, this is not my voice

This image is not me.

All together, I am here to ask:

Can you trust me?

As I write I do not know who listens.

You, the listener, are you human?

and Should I trust you?

F

Richard	Meta human	AI voice	Lip sync
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FAVOURS SCRIPT

I'm quite fascinated by the idea of masks and performances. I think, like Goffman says, that each of us is engaged in a sort of performance and that we cycle between a front-stage and a back-stage. Maybe it's the end of authenticity? Can't say I'm particularly attached to the idea of authenticity anyway. It's nebulous. Some wielding it as shield, others as sword. Both really to whack people up the head or stuff er, stuff down their throats. But I digress...

Religious roots of avatars too are interesting I feel. A divine being embodying itself and descending into flesh. And the word became flesh etc. Interesting how divine beings descend to create their avatars while humans hubristically aim to ascend to create their own avatars.

Maybe there's a lesson in that parable.

G

Richard, real identity	depthkit	Favours voice	Lip sync	
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AI SCRIPT- FAVOUR

In a world where masks are worn,
Where facades are artfully drawn,
There lies a quest for something true,
A yearning for authenticity to pursue.

In this digital realm, a realm of dreams,
Avatars dance and shimmer in streams,
A tapestry woven with bits and codes,
Where identities shift and secrets corrode.

But amidst the chaos, a flickering light,
Trust, like a beacon, shining so bright,
For what is an avatar, if not a guise,
To shield us from judgment, a clever disguise?

Yet, trust, delicate as a fragile flower,
Requires more than just a virtual power,
It needs a foundation, solid and strong,
To last through the tumult, to right the wrong.

Authenticity, the key to unlock,
The walls we build, the doubts we stock,
To be true to ourselves, and to others too,
In the realm of avatars, let integrity ensue.

For avatars may dazzle with radiant gleam,
But trust is earned through actions unseen,
A word kept, a promise fulfilled,
A bond that deepens, unbroken, unchilled.

So let us embrace this digital age,
With cautious hearts, yet unbridled rage,
To seek connections that bear no pretense,
Where authenticity and trust can commence.

For in the realm of avatars, we find,
A chance to transcend the confines of mind,
To build bridges that withstand the test,
And forge bonds that are true, blessed, and blessed.

Let us not be deceived by mere illusion,
But rather, foster trust with resolution,
And with each interaction, let us strive,
To keep authenticity and trust alive.

To do

Richard	Favour
Make stills talk	

Installation:

Framed video portraits
Video mapped busts

Craiyon **V3**

A portrait of a Mauritian Scottish bald male artist with glasses and clothes on.

 Draw



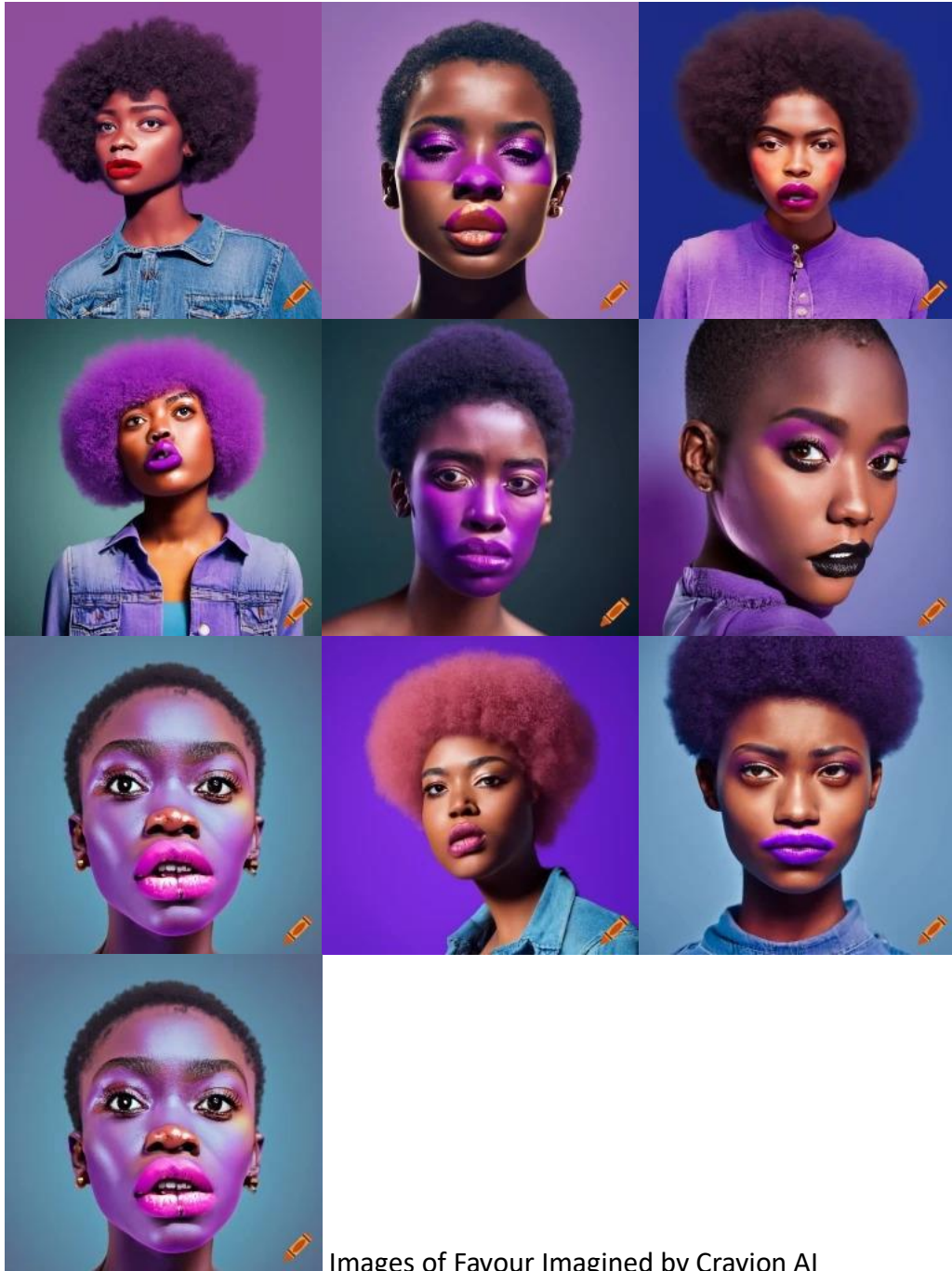
Craiyon V3

A portrait of a Mauritian Scottish bald male artist with glasses and clothes on.

 Draw



Bings imagining of me (Richard)



Images of Favour Imagined by Crayon AI