Yamin Xu Master of Fine Art Thesis

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Using emerging technology to replicate already existing art forms does not excite me. I strive to create and define new things, which have not been clearly perceived as art. This motivation is sustained by my rigorous art/engineering practice, which is informed by the convergence of divergent spheres of study: religion and science, privacy and surveillance, the robotic and organic. The result is an innovation, a feedback to affect and expand my understanding and definition of art. This process of exploration itself is art.

Art is a machine for emotional communication. If the expression and connection of emotions are considered to be the importance of art, a machine with emotional perception and expression must be an artistic creation. The spirit of art is revealed by interactions through this emotional communication and the form of art should be unrestricted. In order to emphasize this spiritual experience of emotional interactions, elements of any embellishment might be diminished and only remain functional aesthetics produced by engineering approaches. This purity of art is that forms must be determined by rational reasons, such as rules of engineering, results of chemical reactions, or distributions of probability.

Finally, being inspired continually, I appreciate the pure simplicity, the elegant rationality, and the universal value, which have been hidden in human beings and nature by the Creator. The compromise between unrestricted perfection and technical limitations humbles me.

Image List

Images 1 - 3: *Iris*, 2020
- 3D printed interactive robot
- Responds to facial expressions

Images 4 - 6: *Loopy*, 2020
- 3D printed interactive robot
- Collects images from audiences for video projection

Image 7: *Sarah*, 2020
- Responsive dual monitor video installation
- Cameras analyze audience mood and visual focus, monitors respond

Images 8 - 9: *The Light of Kindness*, 2019
- Responsive grid of lightbulbs
- Sensors detect mood, lights brighten for positive moods