SUSPENSION
From Reality to Data

MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION

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The aim of this project is to investigate this question, through a multi-disciplinary piece of art, merging images and sounds. Digital photographs become an *act of suspension* of tangible Reality, as well as the starting point for a data re-interpretation activity. Using different data-reading and bending methods, it's possible to go beyond the content of the original pictures, creating new digital representations of previous subjects. Through a series of alterations and algorithmic processes on photographs, we obtain a result that, although deriving directly from a common Reality, tends to express something else. The output, composed of animated images (GIFs) and stereo audio tracks, is entirely produced from the digital data set of the original photographic shots. This form of animated visualization, the GIF image, is simply a quick rotation through a number of static frames. GIFs were chosen to give a fundamental characteristic to the work: they produce a visual immersion without precise time. Sometimes the sounds stop, while images continue to stream into minds. Other times the images seem to be blocked, while the audio continues. There is no beginning nor an end; it's an unfinished moment that flows.

This is an immersive research, a path to reach a virtual space where every mind can search for and explore other meanings, where the same digital databases are rendered to establish memories of lives never lived. Using an instance of space and time compressed in a single moment (a photograph) and expanding it in a parallel vision of another reality (limitless GIF loops), a new Reality is born out of the chosen digital interpretation.

SUSPENSION is a work about time, different perceptions, mind, meta-art and virtual spaces.

Experience

SUSPENSION at the moment is hosted on a private webpage at:
https://www.cerratoandrea.com/world-by-d4t4
where all the 10+1 GIFs and tracks can be privately experienced.

JUST:
Enter the virtual rooms_
Join the Suspension_
• stare
• listen
• free your thinking
• lose yourself

Abstract

"SUSPENSION - From Reality to Data" is a meta-album, or better, a data-album. Every piece of the project requires to be experienced not as a simple artistic expression, but as a possible interpretation of digital data derived from our tangible Reality. The work is composed of a collection of 10+1 GIFs connected to the same number of audio tracks. Every GIF has to be experienced with its relative track.

This work is a journey from the outside to the inside, from the resonant world of our five senses to a different interpretation of our tangible Reality.

All our life is based on perceiving through our senses, thinking through our ideas, performing actions with our bodies. From the simplest to the most sophisticated activity we engage in, our world is translated by our neural networks into complex sequences of only two electrical states: hot/cold, current/no current, fire/not fire. Depending on the way these binary signals and sequences are processed, we end up creating different levels of perception, sensations, feelings. Our interpretation of what's out there…Simply put: what we experience and call life.

A similar procedure occurs when we try to capture the world through digital tools. Outer reality is processed and transcribed with a binary system of 0s and 1s: encoding; digitalization. From the same source differences emerge, depending on what and how you decide to filter, translate and decode. Complex states are transformed into more interpretable versions of the original content. The world is reduced to sequences of two states, ON and OFF.

The world is like a big database of complex raw data ready to be interpreted. Our everyday truth is only one of these possible interpretations, chosen because of an interpolation of different causes in the history of human evolution.

Is it possible to suggest something that goes beyond a common perception of Reality, using its digital depiction as the only starting material?

Installation

This work can also be displayed as a site-specific installation, with a design setup as minimal as possible. The meta-album will be shown as a collection of "sound paintings". Eleven ultra-flat displays, with as many frames, will be hung in succession along a completely black wall. As if it were a painting, on each of these LCD screens, one of the 11 GIFs of the work will be uninterruptedly shown, along with its relative music track, reproduced in loop through a pair of headphones placed under each spot.

The work should be exhibited in a room provided with very soft lighting, never directed towards the art installation, leaving the entire space in dim light, to allow the audience's involvement and immersion as much as possible during the multimedia experience. The headphones placed under each of the hanging screens must isolate the listener from the external environment as much as possible. Each LCD display must be positioned at a minimum distance of 1.5m from the next/previous one, so that each spot is minimally influenced by those next to it. The only information displayed under/next to each screen will be the name of the meta-song and its duration.