Fitting In and Standing Out
(Installation)

Topic: Visual Art

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Abstract
This visual artwork explores social integration and nonconformity through generative imagery. Two screens are presented with animated grids of computer-generated portraits.

One grid is composed of faces that are strikingly similar. Faces in the second grid visually have much less in common. The installation includes a photo station where a participant can have a portrait photo taken. Our algorithm turns each photo into a short looping animation – for example by adding a smile.

Photo   Frames of video automatically generated

This animation is added to both grids and this influences the overall composition. Over time the system selectively removes portraits to maintain consistency and diversity in the two grids.

The entire system is automated. All photos are passed through a generative neural net that adds animated facial expressions. The neural net model has a similarity measure to guide decisions on how the grids are populated. Interpolating across the features of previous participants also generates new faces.

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Main References:
[1] Tom White, "*Sampling Generative Networks: Notes on a Few Effective Techniques*", http://arxiv.org/abs/1609.04468, 2016