Company / The Company I Keep
Artwork

Topic: Art

Author(s):
Barak Chamo
United States, New York University, ITP

(insert the portrait of the speaker)

Abstract

"Company" is an exploration of human connection, identification and empathy that leverages generative artificial intelligence to synthesize imagery. The complete technique for production includes portrait photography, neural network training and generation and dynamic image processing on display.

By training a generative neural network with the faces of my close friends and acquaintances, I want to produce a series of images of our combined selves as a representation of our relationship and impact on each other. This generative process yields a semi-realistic, almost impressionistic, depiction of our "intersected identity" that is inseparable and indivisible.

By display the figures on presentation monitors and not print I will be able to modify and animate the degree to which the two identities impact the "intersected" one, almost like gene dominance in biology, morphing the figure's makeup over time.

At the same time, this series is also an attempt to explore cultural diversity in a new and visual way. All depicted share a
common half, myself, while having a distinct and variying "other" half. I want to leverage this sense of connection between all figured to explore the representation of different cultures, races, and ethnic groups in visual art and in society.

If time and resources allow, I would like the piece to be accompanied by an interactive installation in which the audience could explore how they themselves "intersect" with others. I believe this experience will provoke a sense of empathy and connection with others that are different than you, by seeing yourself as them as your own "intersected identity".

email/address	*Key words:* generative, neural network, identity, visual art