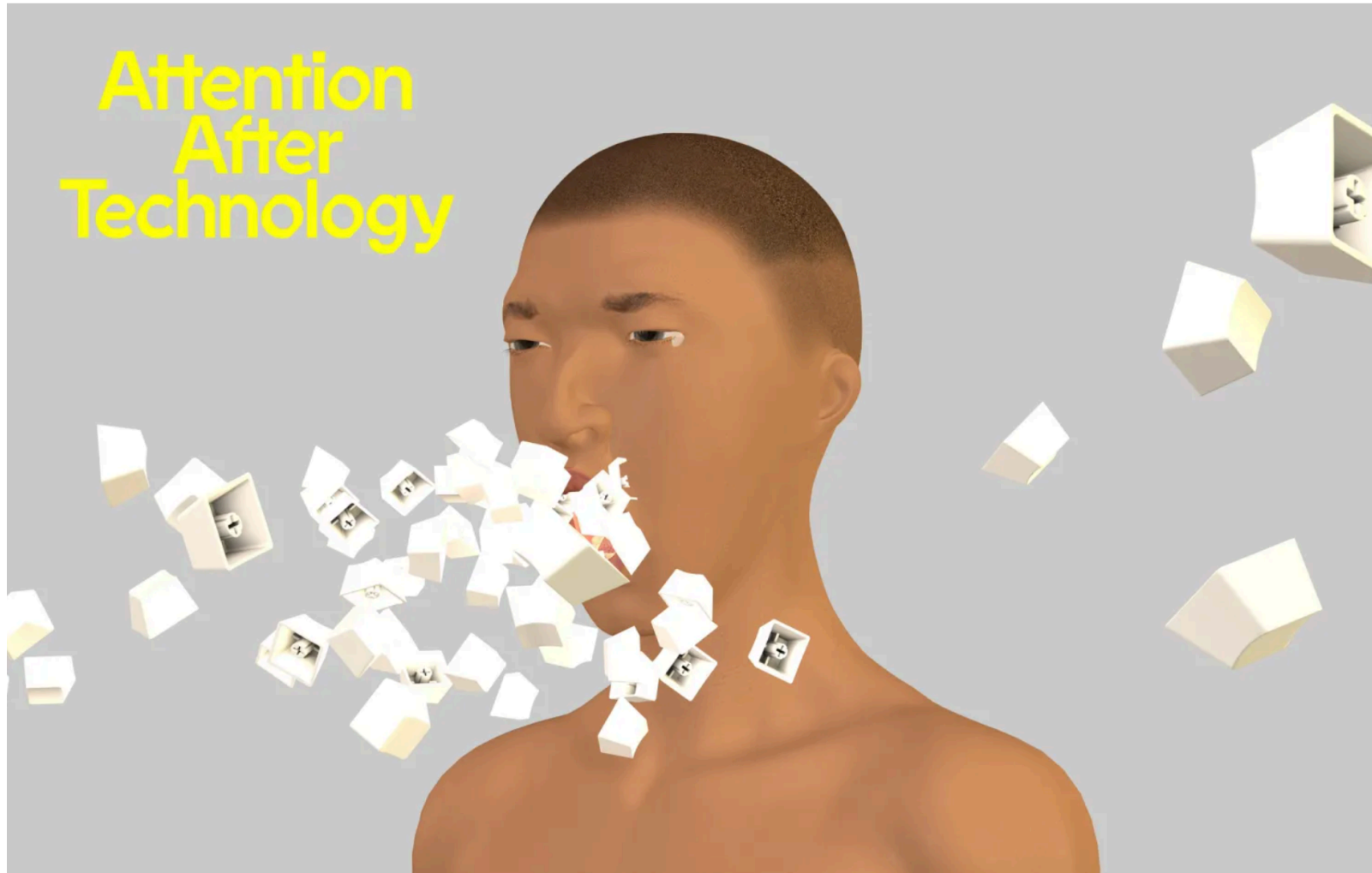


Exhibition opening: Attention After Technology

Upcoming event
Vernissage
13 October 2023 19:00–21:00



Shu Lea Cheang, *UTTER* (2023) mixed media installation. Courtesy the artist.

UTTER (2023) Mixed Media Installation

<https://kunsthalltrondheim.no/en/utstillinger/attention-after-technology>

UTTER is a Creative Europe commission showing in the exhibition *Attention After Technology* which focuses on attention economies, algorithms, and social justice.

UTTER comprises two videos – *UTTERING* and *PARAMETERS* – and 2 modified candy dispensers filled with blank computer keycaps. *UTTERING*, a self-portrait of an artificial intelligence (AI), features a human torso in programmed contortion and mutation. The features never stop changing; skin colour, eye colour, eye shape, hair colour, body shape and gender, all morphing in a continuous loop. Accompanying this video is *PARAMETERS*, which shows the coded parameters associated with gender and race.

The work explores AI alignment, which aims to guide the programmed systems towards human goals, such as preferences and ethical principles. A pacifier in the mouth of the figure in *UTTERING* recalls a baby being kept quiet while attempting to utter. As the pacifier transforms into a ball gag, the self is rendered into submission and forced into silence. The figure spits out the ball gag as blank keycaps cascade out from its mouth. 3D-printed blank keycaps are also placed inside two modified candy dispensers, which permit the audience to interact and dispense the keycaps, leaving them spreading out on floor of the exhibition space.

UTTER explores the ethical protocols in AI alignment, the programmed algorithms and whether AI is able to grasp the complexity and fluidity of human identities beyond reductive views such as binary genders.

Two video loops, *UTTERING* (36'26"), *PARAMETERS* (36'26"), two modified candy dispensers (each 140 x 16 cm), 2500 units of 3D-printed blank computer keycaps (each 40 mm). Commissioned by Kunsthall Trondheim, Art Hub Copenhagen, Tropical Papers, State of Concept Athens and Swiss Institute New York.

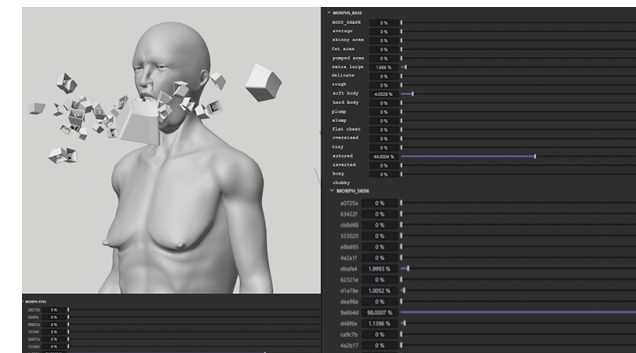
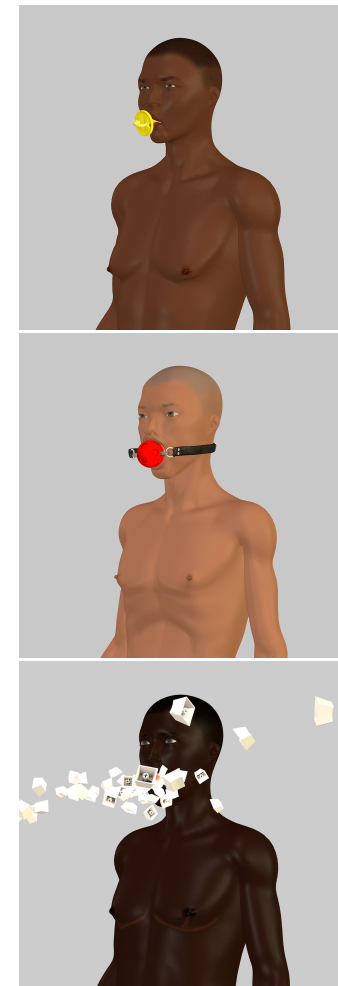
Stills from *UTTERING* & *PARAMETERS*, Shu Lea Cheang 2023

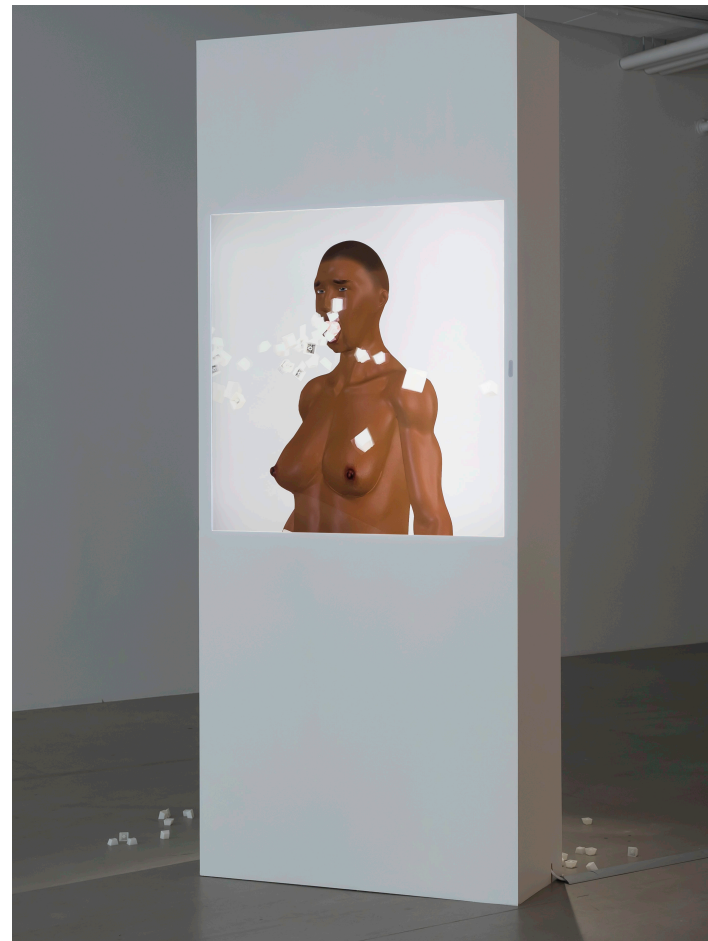
UTTERING (36:26 loop)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u6RT-D9lmvKKkdR_7ZAh-gQM3k6rccYv/view?usp=drive_link

PARAMETERS (36:26 loop)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zr9HzsTi5QQIzeQtkr3Req5DFt27r4-m/view?usp=drive_link





installation view of keycap dispenser,
Kunsthall Trondheim, 2023