

The new Normal

(Installation, music, movement)

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Abstract

A new generative system commenting on what could be the new normal for artmaking.

Musicians have contributed video recordings of themselves playing a chromatic scale; movement artists have contributed sequences of short movement videos. Friends have contributed videos of themselves on Zoom.

The system generates a new melody, counter melody, and chord progression based upon machine learning of a curated corpus of music.

With each generation, the system selects player's videos to play the generated parts based upon available notes; a second pass is made to correct problems

of doublings and orchestration. Two movement videos, pre-segmented based upon unique movement aspects, are assigned to specific notes. The first section presents "Zoomers", randomly selected from a database of contributed videos, building a 4x4 video grid.

Video processing increases on the movers during the second section, and their videos expand out of their "Zoom" boxes; performer videos begin to slide toward the centre while their images slowly become "shadows" of their former selves; Zoomers fade to black and white and recede further and further into the blackness.

The installation runs as a series of generated videos, displayed on a large monitor, or projected on a wall.

Example videos can be found here:
<https://aeigenfeldt.wordpress.com/the-new-normal/>

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